

G
V25557
N89
166449

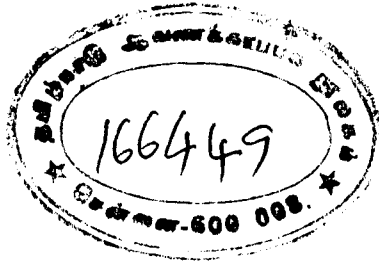
Gazetteer of India



Madhya Pradesh

SEONI

G
V25557
N89



**Madhya Pradesh District
Gazetteers**

SEONI

S. D. GURU

**DIRECTORATE OF GAZETTEERS
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
MADHYA PRADESH
BHOPAL**

First Edition
1989

Price Rs. 150.00

Copies can be had from:

1. Assistant Controller, Printing and Stationery, Central Book Depot, Ibrahimpura, Bhopal (M. P.)
2. Assistant Controller, Printing Forms and Stationery, Gorkhi Lashkar, Gwalior (M. P.)
3. Sales Depot, Govt. of India, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, 503, C-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Deputy Controller, Regional Govt. Press, Malharganj, Indore.

Published by:
DIRECTOR
GAZETTEERS
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
MADHYA PRADESH
BHOPAL

Printed at Government Regional Press, Gwalior

PREFACE

The Seoni District Gazetteer is the 23rd in the series of Madhya Pradesh District Gazetteers, being prepared by the Directorate of Gazetteers, under a Scheme jointly sponsored by the Government of India and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The present volume was finalised by me in 1975. After approval of the draft both by the Government of India and the State Advisory Board, necessary changes were incorporated in the Gazetteer and sent to press in 1985.

Seoni District has a hoary past. From the discovery of stone age tools near the source of the Wainganga, the principal river of the District, it is evident that the area comprised in the present District was the abode of the people in Palaeolithic Age. This area was included in the vast empire of the Nandas, the Mauryas and the Sungas. It was also probably occupied for some time by the Early Satavahanas.

We come to the terra firma with the rise of the Vakatakas in the adjoining Vidarbha region. During the rule of the Vakatakas, this region was invaded by the Nala king Bhavadatta Varman of Baster in the middle of the fifth century A. D. But later, the Nalas were driven out of this territory. In the ninth century A. D. it was included in the Kalachuri Kingdom, with its headquarters at Tripuri.

There is a hiatus in the history of this region for about two centuries, till the fifteenth century, when the District became a part of the Gond Kingdom of Garha-Mandla. Following the invasion by Asaf Khan, the Mughal Governor, in 1564 and the martyrdom of Rani Durgavati, great confusion prevailed. Taking advantage of this confusion, Jatwa, a local Jagirdar of the area laid foundation of an independent Kingdom of Deogarh. The most famous ruler of this dynasty was Bakht Buland. During his rule Chhapara became the headquarters of this area. The early European travellers have left a laudatory account of Chhapara which at the beginning of the nineteenth century was a large and populous town.

Later, it passed into the hands of Bhonslas of Nagpur. They shifted the headquarters from Chhapara to Seoni. During this period, Seoni was twice invaded by the Pindaries, who carried fire and sword into this territory. In 1820, Seoni area came under British occupation.

(vi)

During the Great Revolt of 1857, Raja Satiprasad, a Lodhi land-holder of Seoni, took up arms against the British and joined the rebels of Jabalpur and Narsimhapur. Seoni was the seat of important events during the freedom struggle. During the Salt and Forest Satyagrah in 1930, four tribals of whom three were women Satyagrahis, became martyrs, when the police opened fire at Turia Village. As a tribute to their valour and sacrifice, a Martyrs Memorial has been erected there.

A few words about the preparation of District Gazetteers. It is intended to be a reference book to the administrator, the scholar and the general reader alike. It includes analytical information on almost all conceivable topics concerning the District. For this purpose, hundreds of books, reports, research journals, etc., have to be consulted and information culled from them. Correspondence is also carried out with hundreds of agencies and individuals, both official and non-official, for requisitioning facts and figures. It is a painstaking work requiring hard and devoted work.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the learned members of the State Advisory Board for District Gazetteers for their scholarly suggestions, which helped us in enriching the Gazetteer.

Our thanks are due to Dr. P. N. Chopra and his fellow officers of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Government of India, for their valuable suggestions.

The preparation of Gazetteers is the result of a fine team work. I acknowledge in full measure the valuable assistance received from the following officers of the Directorate:

Sarvashri S. D. Guru and Dr. R. K. Jain, Joint Directors; Vishnu Saran, M. M. Muley, P. K. Bhatnagar, M. P. Dubey, R. K. Shrivastava and R. R. Jain, Deputy Directors; Smt. Namita Sen, K. R. R. C. Nair, Dr. R. C. Gupta, S. M. Rastogi, Dr. N. P. Pandey, R. K. Nayak, Vijay Jain, Dr. K. S. Sharma, A. M. Sharma and Nawal Kishore, Assistant Directors.

Sarvashri Satish Chaturvedi, Dr. Suresh Tiwari, S. S. C. Kerketta, P. K. Jha and Ku. Vandana Mishra, Assistant Directors, gave valuable assistance at the printing stage.

Preparation of press copies and the printing work has been looked after devotedly by Shri K. R. R. C. Nair. Shri S. M. Rastogi has looked after the preparation of Index. Maps have been prepared in the Directorate of Gazetteers by Shri Yadutaj Singh, under the guidance of Dr. N. P. Pandey.

My thanks are also due to Shri P. K. Bhatnagar, now Joint Director, who has supervised and coordinated the various stages of printing work.

Smt. Pankajakshi Amma, Superintendent, and the staff of the Directorate of Gazetteers worked devotedly to complete the work. My thanks are due to all of them.



(S. D. GURU)

Director

Directorate of Gazetteers

Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal

Bhopal

15th August, 1989

(ix)

STATE ADVISORY BOARD
FOR DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

CHAIRMAN

1. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

VICE CHAIRMAN

2. Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh

MEMBERS

3. Dr. Raghubir Singh, Sitamau
4. Dr. H. V. Trivedi, Indore
5. Pt. Sundarlal Tripathi, Jagdalpur
6. Shri P. N. Shrivastav, Bhopal
7. Shri Hiralal Gupta, Sagar
8. Prof. A. H. Nizami, Rewa
9. Dr. Bajjnath Sharma, Jabalpur
10. The Secretary to Govt. of M. P., Deptt. of Culture
11. Editor, Central Gazetteers Unit, Government of India, New Delhi
12. Director, Economics and Statistics, M. P. Bhopal
13. The Collector, Seoni (Ex-officio)

CONVENER

14. Director, District Gazetteers, M. P. Bhopal.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I—GENERAL	Page
Origin of the Name, History of the Administrative Unit 1; Topography 2; River System, the Narmada 3; the Sher, Wanganga 4; Lakes and Tanks, Underground water 5; Geology 6; Minerals 7; Flora, Types of Forests 9; Game Laws and Preservation Measures, Fauna 14; Aquatic Animals, Birds 17; Fishes, Mortality from Reptiles and Wild Animals 18; Climate, Temperature, Rainfall 19; Humidity, Winds, Special Weather Phenomena 20.	1-20
CHAPTER II—HISTORY	21-43
Pre-history, Sepulchral Monuments, the Nandas and Mauryas 21; Sungas, the Early Satavahanas 22; the Vakatakas 23; Samudragupta, Nala Invasion 24; Early Kalachuris and Rashtrakutas 25; the Chandels, Gond Dynasty 26; Deogarh Kingdom, Kok-Shah, Bakht Buland 31; Chand Sultan Shah, Burhan Shah and Akbar Shah 33; the Great Revolt (of 1857;) 37; Freedom Movement, Flag Satyagraha 39; Salt Satyagraha 40; Gandhiji's Visit, Quit India Struggle 42.	
CHAPTER III—PEOPLE	44-60
Population 44; Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes 46; Sex Ratio 47; Migration, Displaced Persons, Language 48; Religion 49; Religious Beliefs, Manners and Customs 50; Superstitions 51; Social Life, Property and Inheritance, Marriage and Morals 52; Drinking, Gambling, Home Life, Type of Dwellings 57; Food, Communal Life, Pilgrim Centres and Jatras 58; Dances, Festivals 59; Public Games 60.	
CHAPTER IV—AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION	61-88
Introduction 61; Land Utilization 62; Irrigation 63; Sources of Irrigation 64; Crops Irrigated 65; Minor Irrigation, Soils 67; Crops 69; Wheat 70; Paddy 71; Jowar, Pulses 72; Oilseeds 73; Sugarcane, Fruits and Vegetables 74; Agricultural Implements, Improved Seeds 75; Manures and Fertilizers 76; Rotation of Crops 77; Plant Protection, Community Development Programme, Intensive Area Agricultural Programme 78; Animal Husbandry 79;	

(xii)

Area under Fodder Crops, Milk Supply, Poultry Farming 80; Fisheries 81; Livestock Diseases 82; Veterinary Hospitals, Cattle Fairs, Forestry 83; Forest Produce 84; State Assistance to Agriculture 85; Famines 86.

CHAPTER V—INDUSTRIES

89-99

Population Dependent on Industries, Old time Industries 89; Power 90; Industries and Manufacture, Minerals 91; Manufacture, Factories under Factories Act 93; Small Scale Industries; State Aid to Industries 94; Industrial Estate, Co-operative and Cottage Units 95; Cottage Industries, Industrial Arts 96; Industrial Potential, Agriculture Based Units 97; Industries Based on Forest Products, Cottage Units, Labour and Employers' Organisations, Welfare of Industrial Labour 98; Factories Acts, etc., 99.

CHAPTER VI—BANKING TRADE AND COMMERCE

100-114

History of Indigenous Banking 100; Indebtedness 101; General Credit Facilities, Registered Money-lenders 102; Joint Stock Banks, Spread of Banking 103; Volume of Business 104; Finances to Minor Irrigation Projects, Small Business Finance 105; Lead Bank Scheme, Co-operative Credit 106; Seoni District Co-operative Central Bank 107; Co-operative Land Development Bank 108; Other Financial Institutions, Small Saving Schemes, Life Insurance 109; M. P. State Financial Corporation, Warehousing, Currency and Coinage, Trade and Commerce 110; Trading Centres, Trading Classes, Exports 111; Imports, Course of Trade 112; Regulated Mandis, Rural Marketing Centres 113; Fairs and Melas, Weights and Measures, Merchants' Associations 114.

CHAPTER VII—COMMUNICATIONS

115-120

Introduction 115; Road Transport, National Highways 116; Municipal Roads, Forest Roads 117; Vehicles and Conveyances, Public Transport, Railways 118; Travel and Tourist Facilities, Post Telegraphs and Telephones 119; Present Set-up 120.

CHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

121-125

Public Services, Administrative and Executive Officials, Clerical and Related Workers 121; Learned Professions, Teaching,

(xiii)

Legal Services 122; Medical Services, Technical Services, Domestic and Personal Services 123; Other Domestic Services 124.

CHAPTER IX—ECONOMIC TRENDS

126-140

Pattern of Livelihood 126; Prices-In 19th Century 128; In Early 20th Century 129; During First World War, the Depression 130; Impact of Second World War 131; Post-Independence Period, Wages—Early Period 132; Wages in kind—First Decade of 20th Century 133; During First World War 134; the Depression 135; Post Independence Period 136; Standard of Living, Agricultural Classes 137; General Level of Employment 138; Employment Exchanges, Planning and Community Development 139.

CHAPTER X—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

141-145

Collectorate 141; Law and Order, Development 142; Other Functions, Food and Civil Supplies 143; Nazul, Other District Level Offices 144; Railways 145.

CHAPTER XI—REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

146-163

History of Land Revenue System, Early British Settlement 146; 30 Years Settlement 147; Settlement of 1896-98, 148; Settlement of 1816-20, 150; Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses 152; Relation between Landlords and Tenants 153; Tenancy Act, 154; Abolition of Proprietary Rights 156; Land Revenue Code 157; Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings 158; Consolidation of Holdings 159; Bhoodan Movement 160; Other Sources of Revenue—Central and State 161.

CHAPTER XII—LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

164-179

Justice under the Marathas, Justice under the British 164; Criminal Judiciary 166; Separation of Judiciary from the Executive, Present Organisation of Courts 168; Incidence of Crimes 169; Gambling and Excise Offences 170; Organisation of Police Force 172; Jails and Lock-ups, Reformatory School 173; Nature of Cases Handled by Courts 174; Civil Suits 176; Nyaya Panchayats 178; Legal Profession and Bar Associations 179.

CHAPTER XIII—OTHER DEPARTMENTS 180-186

Agriculture, Co-operatives, Apex Marketing, Education 180; Employment Office, Forest Department 181; Fisheries, Industries, Irrigation 182; Publicity, Sales Tax, Veterinary 183, Milk Supply Scheme, weights and Measures, Public Health, Family Planning 184; Public Works Department, Public Health Engineering, Roadways, Social Welfare, Tribal Welfare 185; Tube Wells Department 186.

CHAPTER XIV—LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT 187-205

Introduction 187; District Council and Local Boards, Village Sanitation Act 189; Royal Commission, Municipalities Act, Democratisation 190; Janapad Sabhas 191; Municipalities 192; District Council and Local Boards 194; Janapad Sabha 197; Village Panchayats 200; Nyaya Panchayats, Panchayati Raj 202; Janapad Panchayats 203; Seoni Janapad Panchayat 204; Janapad Panchayat Lakhnadon 205.

CHAPTER XV—EDUCATION AND CULTURE 206-218

Introduction 206; Literacy and Educational Standards 209; Spread of Education among Women 211; Spread of Education among Scheduled Castes and Tribes 212; General Education, Pre-primary 213; Primary, Compulsory Primary Education 214; Middle Basic and Secondary Education 215; Collegiate Education, Government College Seoni 216; Polytechnic 217; Adult Literacy and Social Education 218.

CHAPTER XVI—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Facilities in Early Times 219; Vital Statistics 220; Birth-rate, Death-rate 221; Epidemics, Lathyrism, Leprosy 222; Infant Mortality, Important Causes of Mortality 223; Diseases common to the District, Tuberculosis, Malarial Fever, Small-pox 224; Gastroenteritis, Eye Diseases 225; District Hospital Seoni 226; Police Hospital, MCW Centres, Primary Health Centres 227; Family planning 229; Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes, Singhiwalas 230;

Cumulative Public Health Picture, Training of Nurses, Indian Medical Association 231; Indian Red Cross Society, Sanitation 232.

CHAPTER XVII—OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Prohibition 233; Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes 235; Protective Legislations 238; Charitable Endowments 239.

CHAPTER XVIII—PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation, Elections to Lok Sabha 240; Representation in State Legislature 242; Vidhan Sabha, First Elections 243; Second and Third Elections, Fourth and Fifth Elections 244; Political Parties, Indian National Congress 245; Socialist Party 247; Praja Socialist Party, Ram Rajya Parishad 248; Jan Sangh, Republican Party 249; Newspapers, Voluntary Social Service Organisations 250.

CHAPTER XIX—PLACES OF INTEREST 251-258

Adegaon, Ashta 251; Bhaironthan, Bilaspur, Chandi 252; Chhapara, Bhingarh 253; Dhuma, Dighori, Ghansor 254; Lakhnadon, Lurgi 255; Rajola, Sarekha 256; Seoni Town 257.

APPENDICES 259-283

LIST OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS 284-291

BIBLIOGRAPHY

INDEX

ILLUSTRATIONS

MAPS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Frontispiece : Nineteenth Century Digambar Jain Temple, Seoni.

1. Dal Sagar Tank, Seoni.
2. One of the ancient Shaivite and Shakta temples, Ashta, Seoni.
3. Eight-armed deity with elephant symbol.
4. Genesh, Nri-varaha and other images under the sacred tree, Lakhnadon.
5. Hanuman and other images of Gond period excavated from, Bisapur,
6. Fortress of Adegaon, near, Lakhnadon.
7. Main gate of Adegaon fortress.
8. Interior view of Adegaon fortress.
9. A fortress of the Gond period, Chhapara.
10. Bronze alloy casts of Shiva family excavated from Bisapur
11. Rishabhdeo and other jain images collected from Lakhnadon.
12. Rishabhdeo and other jain images on the door lintel shifted from Dal Sagar Tank Site.
13. Interior view of the cavern of Mathghogra near Bhaironthan, Lakhnadon.
14. A Gond Woman.
15. A Gond.
16. Saila Dance.
17. Ahir dance.
18. District Jail, Seoni.
19. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose memorial cell,
20. Reformatory School, Seoni.
21. Mission Higher Secondary School, Seoni.
22. Govt. Arts & Science College, Seoni.
23. Govt. Polytechnic, Seoni.
24. District Hospital, Seoni.
25. Town Hall, Seoni.
26. Neelgai, Pench National Park.
27. Saj Talab construction, Pench National Park.
28. Bodanala lake, Pench National Park.



Nineteenth Century Digamber Jain Temple, Seoni
(Courtesy : Pubilcity Deptt., M. P.)

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL

Seoni is one of the districts located almost entirely on the Satpura plateau. It occupies an area of 8752 Sq. km. between the parallels of latitude 21°36' N. and 22°57' N. and the Meridians of longitude 79° 12' E. and 80° 17' E. The shape of the map resembles an irregular oblong. The length is measured about 153 km. from north to south, with its width about 110 km. from south-west to north-east. The total population of the District is 668,352².

The District is bounded by Jabalpur in the north, Nagpur District of Maharashtra in the south, Balaghat in the east and Chhindwara in the west. Mandla and Narsimhapur districts lie towards the north-east and north-west, respectively.

Origin of the Name

The District is named after the headquarters town, Seoni which is pronounced as Siwani. The Origin of the town's name is obscure; among the many conjectures are its association with the Shaivaites, *Sewan* trees, Sona rani of Nainagarh and the 'Seenwa' the boundary of northern kingdom at any time³.

History of the Administrative Unit

The seat of local administration under the Gond kingdom of Garha-Mandla was Chanwari, a place about 8 km. South of Seoni. When the five *parganas* of Chanwari, Chhapara, Katangi, Dongartal and Ghansore were handed over to Bakt Bulandshah of Deogarh (1681-1731), his *Subahdar* Ramsingh shifted to Chhapara. In about 1743 the territory passed into the hands of Raghuji Bhonsle. Mohammad Amin Khan, a *Diwan* (or *jagirdar*) of the Bhonslas shifted the *Jagir* headquarters from Chhapara to Seoni in 1774 while the tahsil headquarters of the southern part were located in the fort of Chhapara for sometime. Since then, except for a short while when the *Pargana* headquarters was shifted to Adegaon, Seoni continued to gain importance.

Under the British the territories of Seoni District extended to Mandla and Katangi, which formed its tahsils. In 1835 Mandla was made into a *Munsifi*, It was promoted to the status of a district for six months in 1849 and finally in 1851. In 1873 Katangi Tahsil except 58 villages, was transferred to Balaghat⁴ and 59 villages around Ramtek were transferred to Nagpur District, now in Maharashtra State. In turn 122 villages including Adegaon from Chhindwara and 8 villages from Mandla were added to Seoni District.

1. Survey of India (quoted in Census of India 1971, M.P. At A Glance, p. 25.
2. Census of India 1971, M.P. At A Glance, p. 25.
3. *Seoni-prachin avam Aroachia*, (Hindi), 1961, P. 1 (Municipal Higher Secondary Schools Extension Programme under the Ministry of Education, Government of India).
4. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, 152.

During the year 1931, on 1st October, the District of Seoni was reduced to a Sub-Division of Chhindwara. However, It was revived on the 1st October 1956.

Administrative Sub-Divisions

The District is Sub-divided into two tahsils, viz., Seoni and Lakhnadon. These are further divided into a number of Revenue Inspectors' Circles, Development Blocks and Police Thanas, for revenue, development and police purposes, respectively. The police thanas located in the District are Seoni, Bandol, Kurai, Barghat, Kanhiwara, Keolari, Ugli, Lakhnadon, Dhanora, Dhooma, Bidarai, Ghansore and Chhapara.

TOPOGRAPHY

The District as a whole lies on a section of the Satpura plateau covering its whole width from south to north. The general height of the plateau in the District is about 550 metres from mean sea level. The plateau gradually lowers down towards the east. It marks a hill range along the southern scarps in Seoni District but is most crowded with the hill features along the north-western boundary. It is from this mass that a few hill ranges spur out to the east alternating with the valleys. The Wainganga and the Narmada present the low parts of the District in the east and north-east, respectively. The southern margins of the District mark the foot hill region; also occupied by the Panchdhar valley.

Hills

Manori hill (845.487 metres) is the highest measured point in the District on the trijunction of Seoni, Lakhnadon and Amarwara tahsils. The Saliwara, the Putarra and the Ghungsa hills, all along the western boundary, also rise to over 838.2 metres or 2750 feet.

In continuation of this hill mass, and east of it lies the Lakhanadon plateau. The Laknadon plateau forms the major water divide between the Narmada and the Wainganga. It slopes towards the north and consequently several ridges of residual hills stand between the north flowing tributaries of the Narmada, viz. the Bhagora, the Temur, the Tairahia, the Soner, the Sher, the Gurda, the Kanera and the Macharewa. The southern scarps of Lakhnadon plateau as also the Chhapara hills across the Bijna valley have several high peaks rising over 650 metres, the highest being Patan, 756.2 metres.

The Southern hill range starts from the undulating plateau of Chaurai in Chhindwara District. It stretches in a line resembling joint double 'j'. From the western boundary the ridge is traced along the railway line upto Pipardehi. From there, it turns south-east up to Mohgaon and curves to the north. This hill range shoulders the town of Seoni and is known as Kariapahar. A south-eastern branch of this range, though lower, runs along the south-eastern boundary upto Sonawani and Behrai hills. Between the curves of these two 'j' shaped regions rise the Wainganga in the West and the Hirri in the east.

Valleys

The Wainganga valley is divided into two parts, the upper and the lower. The upper part or Seoni Haveli is a narrow fertile plain about 550 metres high. The valley lies from south to north in this portion. In its eastward flow the river valley is much contorted by rocks and forests.

Near about Ghansore the valley is joined by the tributary plains of the Sagar and the Hirri in the south and the Halon in the north. Thus, the eastern plains together, are longer than Seoni Haveli.

The lower valley of the Wainganga starts in the rivers southern course after crossing the ghats (the hill region) along the Balaghat boundary. Though in Seoni District this occupies a small area covering Rumat, Ugli and Kharsara, the valley is more fertile with the sandy *alluvial mantle*. The Hirri joins the Wainganga near Kharsara. Thus the upper plain of the Hirri also remains closed by the hills, like that of its major river, the Wainganga.

RIVER SYSTEM

The drainage of the District forms parts of the Narmada and the Godavari river Systems. While the former occupies about a quarter of the area in the north the latter occupies about three quarters of the area in the south.

The main water dividing line runs from west to east, a few kilometres south of Lakhnadon and Kahani. The general character is dendritic, developed on low plateau and seasonal due to monsoon climate.

The Narmada

This is a Westward flowing Primary river which forms the north-eastern boundary of the District. It rises from the Amarkantak hill (Shahdol District) at 22°40' N. by 81°46' E. on the Maikal range. It flows through the Satpura hills in a zigzag manner and forms the boundary between Seoni and Mandla districts. After entering Jabalpur district it plunges into a rift valley and maintains the straight westerly course throughout. In the rift valley the river hugs more along the foot of the Vindhyan scarps in the north and forms a little wider valley to its south. In its lower parts the river enters the State of Gujarat and forming an estuary empties at Cambay. The total length of the river is 1290 km. of which a section about 35 km. lies along the District boundary.

The river was known to the Aryans during the ages immediately following the Rig Veda. It has been omitted by Panini but Ptolemy, the author of Periplus, and Megasthenes bear testimony to the river in their works. It is one of the seven sacred most rivers of India. The Skand Puran relates how the river emerged from the body of Lord Shiva after a great penance on the Rikhsa Mountain. Since the river damsel enamoured the gods, Shiva named her Narmada or delight giving.

The Ganga is obliged to come and dip in the Narmada once a year. She comes in the form of a coal-black cow and returns home pure white free from all sins. Religious fairs are held among other places at Bhe aghat, Gwarighat, Burman-ghat, Omkareshwar, and Bharukatch along its banks.

The Narmada is joined by a number of tributary streams from the south, e. g. , Sher, Shakker, Dudhi, Ganjal, Tawa, Chhota Tawa, Kauvery, etc. Bhagora nala, Temur nala, Sonea and the Sher drain the northern part of Lakhanadon Tahsil in to the Narmada. The Narmada has to be crossed by the roads joining Seoni with Jabalpur in the north and Mandla in the east. Unless the crossing bridges are raised to sufficient heights they will continue to be obstructed by the occasional high floods during the rains.

The Sher

The Sher rises at Batka, 7 km. south-east of Lakhanadon and flows to the north-east. It is joined by the Gurda, the Kanera, the Macharewa, the Barurewa and Umar, before it joins the Narmada at Ratikarar in Narsimhapur. Its total length is 113 km. The river is crossed by a fine stone bridge at Sonai Dongri in Seoni on the Nagpur-Jabalpur road and by a railway bridge 13 km. east of Narsimhapur. The bed is rocky, the banks ravinous and the current rapid.

The Wainganga

The Wainganga seems to have derived its name from Ganga and Venu the king who ruled from Singorgarhfort in Damoh. It may also be associated with the Puranic character who milked the cow-earth. The Wainganga is the most important river of the District. It rises from the hills ($21^{\circ} 55'N$, $79^{\circ} 34'E$) above Partabpur. It forms a semicircular course in the District, flowing first to the north, bending east and finally to the south along the south eastern boundary. Hence, it passes into Balaghat District. Alongwith Wardha and Paenganga, it is one of the constituents of the Pranhita river, which joins the Godavari in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State. The upper course of the river crosses the southern hill range and flows north through Seoni-Mungwani *havell*, a narrow undulating country long occupied by cultivation. The Til Sankranti fair (14th January), is held on its banks at Lakhanwara, the nearest road crossing from the District town. Several small streams join it in this course from the high plateau of Amarwara across the western boundary. Among them the Tharka and the Thal, are the streams of some significance. The Wainganga is crossed by the Nagpur-Jabalpur National Highway at Chhapara beyond which its course is mostly rocky and frequently changing direction, but keeping to the east generally. The Bijna joins the river on its left. The Nagpur-Nainpur railway line and Seoni-Mandla road both cross the river near Keolari.

A few kilometres beyond the river turns to the south and flows on a lower plain along the Seoni-Balaghat boundary. Here it is joined by the Thanwar and the Bagh on the left (and north) and the Bandarjhir, the Sagar and the Hirri on the right.

The river commences its descent to the lower country passing over a series of rapids and deep basaltic channels, overhung by walls of granite about 60 metres high. The course during the last 10 km. before its junction with the Thanwar may perhaps be ranked next to the Bheraghat gorge of the Narmada for beauty of river scenery in the Satpuras. The villages of Chhapara and Kevlari in Seoni District and the towns of Balaghat, Tumsar, Bhandara and Pauni settle on its banks, beyond the District. Below Balaghat the bed is generally broad and sandy interspersed with occasional rock barriers. The light canoes are operated between Bagh and Garhchiroli. Timber is floated down the river and small quantities of grain and vegetable are carried for short distances. A joint effort to harness the water potentials of the river and its affluents may be of immense benefits for both the States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Lakes and Tanks

There were six medium sized reservoirs and 808 small tanks in the District in 1968-69. Many of these were used for the requirements of cattle, and irrigation. About 32 canals of varying length form part of irrigation works in the District. Important among the dams are the Wainganga dam near Gurera, Rumal dam near Padriganj railway station, Bari near Barghat, Ari and Ushri dams by the side of Seoni-Katangi road, Chichwan along Seoni-Balaghat road, Badalpur to the south-west of the District town and Sagar dam to the north-east of the town on Sagar stream. About 13,000 hectares of cultivated land is covered under irrigation from these eight reservoirs in the District. This exclude the irrigated area under Wainganga canals in Maharashtra State. Babaria tank near Seoni is also utilised for water supply to the town.

Underground Water

The geological setting has a very important role in deciphering the ground water potentialities, in the terrain. Deccan trap, being the most extensive, covering about 3/4th of the total area of the District, has its own characteristic behaviour of ground water bearing capacity. The zones of weakness such as fractures, faults, joints, etc. serve as channels for accumulation of water and should be looked for ground water. In the vesicular basalts, when vesicles are interconnected, the marker horizon in prospecting for ground water is associated with more porous beds underlying them.

The crystallines of the Archaean age are occupying southern and south-eastern parts of the District. These rock types belonging to the Chilpi Group, Sausar Group and older metamorphics include gneiss, granites, schist pegmatites, crystalline limestone, quartzite, etc. Among these, granites and gneisses are by far the most important in which groundwater accumulates in the weathered mantle

The lameta formation is composed of sandstone and limestone. In these rocks the openings are of super capillary size, in the form joints and bedding planes. The solution cavities in limestone provide local storage for the ground-water yielding limited supply.

The distribution in Deccan Trap is more regular than in other igneous rocks. It is observed that the prolific water bearing horizons are (i) weathered loose 'morram' like material (ii) weathered amygdaloidal basalts, (iii) exfoliated weathered zone covered by flows with columnar joints and (iv) the contact between the vesicular basalts and the underlying impervious rocks. These play significant role in accumulation of groundwater which may be tapped by wells for various purposes according to their capacities

GEOLOGY

The District is mainly occupied by the Archaean rocks (2500 million years old), comprising paragneisses (the Baihar Gneisses), green schist, intrusive-granite, basic rocks, quartz veins, etc., The manganese deposits of this District are restricted to the Sausar Group of schistose rocks. Above the Archaeans there is a thin covering of Lameta sediments comprising conglomerate, sandstone, impure limestone and clays. Occurring above the lametas are the lava flows of the Deccan Trap (60 million years old) which house the bauxite deposits. Older metamorphics including Sausar and Chilpi Group occupy mostly the southern part of the District while the northern part is covered by Deccan Trap with thin lameta beds intervening them. There is vast expanse of high level laterite capping with concomitant segregations of aluminous laterite/low grade bauxite.

Table No. 1

The geological succession is given below :

Quaternary		Soil, Alluvium & laterite.
Palaeocene		Deccan Trap Basalts.
M. Cretaceous (Turonian)		Lameta Beds, Gritty Felspathic sandstone and limestone.
Unconformity		
PRECAMBRIANS	Chilpi Group	Basal conglomerate, quartzite, slates, phyllites
	Sausar Group	Crystalline limestone, calciphyre, pyroxene gneiss, quartzite, gondite & pegmatite with manganese ore zone.
	Older metamorphic Group	Schists and gneisses, porphyritic granite.

Older Metamorphics

The Archaeans occupy the southern and southeastern parts of the District. It includes gneiss, schist, micaceous gneiss and porphyritic granite and the rocks of Sausar and Chilpi Group. The biotite-gneiss vary widely from streaky and rather schistose types to uniformly banded gneiss. The porphyritic granites are characterised by 13 large phenocrysts of microcline with myrmekitic intergrowth. The coarse grained biotite streaky gneisses occur adjacent to the stages of Sausar Group. The general appearance of these granites is igneous, but

Dr. W. D. West opined that the streaky gneiss is composite in character and made up of two generations. One intimately penetrating the other, one is igneous but the other is granitised-product of Sausar sediments.

Sausar Group

The Sausar Group includes crystalline limestone, calciphyre, pyroxene gneiss, quartzite, gondite and pegmatite. Structurally the rocks are much disturbed. The general strike of the rocks is northeast-southwest to northwest-southeast. The southern part of the belt constitutes a zone of isoclinal folds, in the middle part the folds are recumbent, and in northern strips thrust sheets are exhibited. There are numerous strike and thrust faults. Folds and thrust faults are arranged en-echelon.

Amphibolites and pegmatites are found to occur as intrusive bodies in the rocks of Sausar Group.

Chilpi Group

Resting over the rocks of the older metamorphic group, the Dharwarian metasediments of the Chhattisgarh- Cuddapah basin are designated as Chilpi Group. It strikes in northeast to southwest direction and comprises quartzite, felspathic grit, shale and slate with inclusions of the Traps. The basal conglomerate contains rock pebbles of sedimentary origin. The Chilpi group are intruded by granit and pyroxene bearing rocks.

Lameta Formation

Overlying unconformably the older metamorphics, Sausar and Chilpi Groups are the Lameta formation of sedimentary nature.

The rocks represented by this formation include a low grade limestone highly siliceous in composition ranging in thickness from 5 m. to 7 m. It is extensively exposed around Khamaria and Selli villages situated south west of Seoni. Calcareous sandstone, conglomerate, grit, and arkose are the main rock types of this formation which are thought to have been derived from the denudation of the underlying older gneisses and granites.

Deccan Trap

Overlying the Lametas and at places directly on the granites and gneisses are the Deccan Traps which cover approximately three-fourth area of the District. The trap formation is represented by various flows of different thickness and form the Satpura range of hills.

Laterite

Laterite, a product of weathering of the basalts is found to occur in the southeast of Seoni town. It is seen capping the Trap flows at Maili, Amargarh, Dulal, etc.

MINERALS

Bauxite

Superior quality bauxite has been found along the scarp at Amargarh (22°00' 79°40'). A representative sample contained 54.78 percent Al_2O_3 (Aluminoxide).

Near Antarwani (21°52':79°44') on a hillock, deposit of bauxite intercalated with ferruginous laterite, estimated to be 7 m. in thickness, has been found. Segregations of Bauxite pockets are noticed at Dulal (21°58':79°42'), Kamkasur (21°56':79°38'), Khapa (21°55':79°30') and Potla (21°57':79°33').

Building Stone and Road Metal

The District provides in-exhaustible building and road materials, e. g., limestone, dolomite, schists, etc.

Copper

Encrustations of malachite are noticed sporadically along the fracture planes and other structurally weak planes in the amphibolites associated with Tirodi gneiss around Antarwani (21°33':79°44'). Primary copper minerals, however, were not found in the amphibolites as well as the Tirodi gneiss. The occurrence is not likely to be of much economic significance.

Gold

Gold washing is being carried out in the Pachdhar (21°49':77°31') and Bawanthari rivers.

Iron

Ferruginous laterite occurs as discontinuous lenses around Jatama (21°38':79°33') and 1.5 km. north of Silari (21°37':79°32'). The laterite is seen to cap the dolomitic marble of the Bichua formation of Sausar Group. All these occurrences have been extensively worked for iron by village smelters in the past. In view of the low iron content and limited lateral extent of the lateritic iron ores, the deposits, may be worked locally on a small scale.

Manganese

The manganese ores are associated with the Gondite which is a spessartite quartz rock often containing a small quantity of apatite, but free from felspar. The manganese deposits are noticed near Antarwani (21°52':79°44') and Piparwani (21°39':79°34') which form part of Ramarama-Sonawani manganese belt.

Meteorite

Fall of meteorite was reported in the neighbourhood of Piparwani (21°39':79°34') on 15th January, 1966.

Mica

The extensive pink biotite gneiss is profusely traversed by thin veins of pegmatite and aplite. About 1 km. north of Khandasa (21°41':79°29'), in the Khawasa forest range, thin tabular sheets of ruby and green mica within the pegmatites are seen which have traversed the pink biotite gneiss (Tirodi Gneiss).

GENERAL

FLORA

Over one-third of the total area in the District is covered under the forests. Out of this 2227.4 Sq. km. is covered under Reserved forests. These are managed under two Forest Divisions, viz. North Seoni Forest Division and South Seoni Forest Division. These Divisions are divided into six ranges, each, and a number of forest blocks.

Types of Forests

Most of the forest area falls under 5-A Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Mixed or Teak Forests under the broad classification (revised) offered by H. G. Champion and V. K. Seth. A small area over Archaeon rock formations along the southern slopes falls under the type 3 B/C I-C Southern Tropical Slightly Moist deciduous Teak forests. From an ecological cum-management point of view the forests in the North Seoni Forest Division have been classed as the Teak and Mixed forests with or without bamoboo as under² :—

S. No. (1) 5A/C1/a-Southern Dry Teak Forests with bamboo.

S. No. (2) 5A/C1/b-Southern Dry Teak Forests without bamboo.

S. No. (3) 5A/C-3 Southern Dry Mixed Forests with bamboo.

S. No. (4) 5A/C-3 Southern Dry Mixed Forests without bamboo.

No *sal* forests are found in the District.

The forests of South Seoni Forest Division, correspondingly, have been classed³ as semi Moist and Dry Teak Forests and Dry Mixed Forests under following heads;—

S. No. (5) 3B/C-I-C-Semimoist Teak Forests with bamboo.

S. No. (6) 3B/C1-C-Semimoist Teak Forests without bamboo.

S. No. (7) 5A/C1/b (iv)-Southern Dry Teak Forests with bamboo.

S. No. (8) 5A/C1/b (iv)-Southern Dry Teak Forests without bamboo.

S. No. (9) 5A/C3-Southern Dry Mixed Forests of all associations.

The above classifications indicate that with the exception of Semimoist teak forests all other forests of Seoni Division correspond broadly to the same class as in the North Division. Their distinctions appear mostly due to the suitability or otherwise of the underlying rocks, soil conditions, moisture retention capacities and in the case of certain individual tree species, their ability of surviving under hard natural or biotic factors, such as the fires, grazing, fellings, etc. The whole District but for the southern hill range, bears a flora that is Dry Deciduous Mixed forests of this wide

1. Revised Survey of Forests types of India.

2. Working Plan for North Seoni Forest Division, 1968-69 to 1982-83 vol. 1, pp-19-26.

3. Working Plan for South Seoni Forest Division, 1966-67 to 1980-81, Vol. A, 20-60.

areas have been occupied by the hardy species of teak (*Tactona grandis*¹), which survives, under hard circumstances and has replaced other species to a very great extent. Forests with 20 per cent of teak in the upper storey are classed as teak forests. Further classification is based on the presence or absence of bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) and *lantana* in the understorey. Both the species obstruct the natural seedling and growth of young tree species and thus obstruct regeneration. Their presence produces inferior subtypes of high forests

Distribution of General and Type Class Forests

The major forest belts lie from west to east along the three hill ranges of the Satpura, and south to north along the off shoot hills east of the town. The main hill range of the Satpura crosses the District through Rukhar and Ari south of Seoni. The chief reserves in this range are the Gangai nala, Agri, Kurai Ulatbehrai and Ugli. Ambagarh and Kariapahar reserves occupy the off shoot hill range east of Seoni Town. The forest belts lying to the north of Chhapara and along the northern boundary also extend from west to east but are parcelled out in smaller blocks by the narrow cultivated belts along a tributaries of the Wainganga and the Narmada, respectively.

Semi-Moist Teak Forests (S. No. 5 and 6)

These forests occupy the southern hills with minor patches of flat land and easy gradients. The base is Archaean with a complex of gneisses, granites, metamorphics, conglomerates and the resultant soils which have better moisture retention capacities. The rainfall in this area is also supposed to be higher. These factors make the teak grow from M. P. class II to III (18 to 24 metres) with the stock density of 0.5 to 0.8. From Seoni-Katangi road to Seoni-Nagpur road the bamboo forms a thick undergrowth disallowing adequate natural regeneration. However, over 80 per cent of the bamboos have flowered during the years 1962-63-64. To the west of Seoni-Nagpur road up to the Pench river the stock is excellent and free from the undesirably thick growth of bamboos.

Dry Teak Forests (S. No. 1 and 2) of North Division

Teak occurs on a variety of geological formations including Archaeans, limestones and sometimes sandstones. But Trap appears to be the most favourite associate of teak forests on well drained areas irrespective of the thickness of soil cover. It thrives on disintegrated fertile sandy loam. Dry Teak forests cover nearly the whole of North Seoni Forest Division except the south-western portion of Ugli block and small patches of intermittent Mixed forests. Small areas in the northern part of Ugli and Pipardon blocks of Keolari range and Roto and Narmada blocks of Ghansore are associated with thick undergrowth of bamboo. This Teak forest with bamboos (S. No. 1) occupies the flat top hills and lower gentle slopes composed of granites and gneisses. The general proportion of teak is 20 to 60 per cent and the quality M. P. III.

The crop is young to middle aged with a thick density of 0.4 to 0.8. Bamboos form an important understorey but during 1962-63-64 most clumps have flowered and dried out. The teak forests without bamboos are extensive throughout the North Division over Trap formations or over laterite cappings. The resultant soil has lesser moisture in summer. This condition adversely affects the associate species and the quality of the crop. The hardy teak thereby gains in proportion to other species but suffers in height and girth. It grows from 30 to 80 per cent but the average quality remains to be IV a.

Dry Teak Forests of South Division (S. No. 7 and 8)

Dry teak forests are confined to Seoni Plateau and Pitesur plains. The watershed line between the Bamanthadi and the Wainganga lies on a shallow laterite zone underlain by the Trap. It is this narrow Trap-cum-laterite zone on the northern off shoot hill range and the Khawasa-Pitesur plain over schists, where this type occurs. Patches of the type also occur on the Kariapahar, Ugli, Gurera and Hirri blocks. It is interesting to find good quality teak forests (M.P. III) with a slight poor density (0.6 to 0.8) over laterite in the South Seoni Forest Division contrary to the belief that it shuns laterite. There seems to be the admixture of laterite and trap and also a mixed type of soil.

Bamboos though not so thick as to inhibit regeneration is common in the type forests along the streams and on hill slopes. *Chandan* (*Santalum album*) planted in 1880 is the special attraction of this type. It has spread in the adjoining Reserved and Protected forests. It is free from the dreaded spike disease and peculiarly enough the main hosts of *chandan* are teak and bamboo. However, the growth rate is so slow that hardly 85 trees with 60 cm. girth at breast height could be counted in 1965. *Bel* (*Aegle marmelos*, *Correa*) and *panda* (*Gardenia latifolia*) are other species growing gregariously at several places either as pure stands or in the second storey.

Since 1950 the Dry Teak forests of Khamaria and Chaonri (Lamajoti) have been infested by the lantanas (*Lantana aculeata*) and chilati (*Acacia pennata*). The regeneration almost being stopped, it requires special attention to replanish the forests.

Mixed Forests (S. No. 3, 4 and 9)

Mixed forests are the main type occupying 69 per cent of South Seoni Division, mostly on soils of micaceous to calcareous varieties. In general the Mixed forests are more varied in composition. All forests where teak or any other single species could not out number others are classed as Mixed forests. The density varies from 0.2 to 0.8. The Mixed forests along the streams and in moist localities are marked by *saj* (*T. tomentosa*), *dhaora* (*Anogeissus latifolia*, Wall), *bija* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), etc. *Kohu* (*T. arjuna*), *jamun* (*Syzygium cumini*) and *kusum* (*Schleichera oleosa*) occupy the nala banks. *Londial* and *thisa* (*Ougeinia oofetnensis*) grow in the middle zones of forests while *salai*

1. Full Scientific names of species are given in Appendix B.

(*Boswellia serrata*), *bhirra* (*Chloroxylon swietenia*) and *dhaora* (*Anogeissus latifolia*) occupy the dry higher reaches of hills. *Kullu* (*Sterculia urens*), *papra* (*Gardenia latifolia*) and *gongal* (*Cochlospermum religiosum*) occupy stony and rocky grounds. Bamboo occurs in the understorey at most places.

Mixed forests with bamboos grow on sandstones mixed with laterite in south-western parts of Ugli block of North Division. Here the quality is poor due to low moisture in the soil. The forest at under storey is prominent due to open top canopy. Undergrowth and shrubs are also thick. Mixed forests also occur in patches widely scattered all over the teak forests but they are generally devoid of bamboos in the understorey.

A list of species found in the top canopy, under storey, under growth, climbers, grasses, etc. is given in Appendix B (Lists).

Past Working and Their Broad Effects

Colonel G.F. Pearson, the Conservator of Forests initiated in 1860, the policy of demarcation and reservation. He also promulgated the Waste Land Management Rules, 1862 forbidding the cutting of *teak*, *bija*, *saja* and *shisham*, and imposed commutation fee for exploiting other species. Most of the Reserved forests in the District were notified in 1879 and rest in parts during the years 1899, 1900, 1902, 1909 and 1966. The earliest blocks to be reserved were those stretching from the Peneh to Alikatta, Koraihat and Wainganga and latest, the Ex-Dewani forests. In 1894 working circles and felling series were formed for the first time and improvement fellings were taken up departmentally in Amargarh, Pakhara and Hathigarh blocks and some parts of Ugli and Khawasa ranges. Range-wise working plans were prepared for Ganginala in 1895, Korai in 1896 and Ugli in 1899 on the Coppice-with-Standards systems. However, these were given up in 1903 due to lack of demands. A single working plan was prepared for the three northern ranges in 1901-02 on the system improvement fellings. The same system was generally adopted in the working plan for three southern ranges in 1903. These were further improved in the working plan of 1917 for the southern ranges and in the working scheme of 1923 for the northern ranges. The system for the better teak forests remained the same. The mixed forest of South Seoni Division were to be exploited on coppice-with-standards. These were said to have protected the forest to the satisfaction of the Department looking to the hard conditions and low demands at those times.

The First Regular Working Plan

The first regular working plan for the whole of Seoni Civil Sub-Divisions was worked from 1929 to 1938. It attributed 5 working circles and adopted conversion to uniform system for Teak High Forests at an arbitrarily fixed conversion period of 60 years. The period of rotation in coppice-with-standards and Low forest (Mixed) working circles was fixed at 40 years, leaving *teak*, *saj*, *bija*, *haldia*, *khair*, *shisham* and *siris* as standards for 80 years rotation. Bamboo (overlapping) and unworkable areas formed other working

This was slightly amended without stock mapping for the whole District and for ten years. In this revised plan volume control was given up for new equi—production coupes, Coppice-with-standards and low forest working circles were brought under Coppice-with-reserves system thereby abolishing chances of misclassifying the areas and trees for working or preservation.

Effects of World War II

Although the forests in general improved under the plans of 1928 and 1938, heavy felling of teak and miscellaneous trees over 4 feet (1.2 metres) girth at breast height were made to meet the requirements of the War. Protection to regeneration and cultural operations were neglected. This left the worked areas devoid of well grown trees for a long time.

The Last Completed Working Plan

The last completed plan was prepared in 1949-50. This continued till 1966 in South Division and upto 1968 in North Division. It was prepared on the basis of fresh inspection and new compartment histories but old stock maps. During this period the forests were allotted mostly the same Working circles and felling series prevalent since 1938. Coupes in High forests were laid equi-productive were made by increasing rotation—*cum*-conversion period from 60 to 80 years. Instead of unworked working circle two new working circles (Improvement and miscellaneous) and three overlapping working circles, viz, Plantation, Soft Wood and Khair were prescribed.

Results

The reserved forests have enjoyed protection since about 80 years. With the result they appear distinct in composition and quality as compared to Ex-Proprietary forests and revenue areas.

However, there still exist open and poor areas bearing the mark of pre-reservation hacking or grazing. Some of the blanks may also be attributed to lack of bamboo and climber cutting, refractory fellings, war time exploitation and illicit fellings. Some patches have suffered in Sakata and Chandrapur due to frost. Technical mistakes of the Working Plans and Execution staff can not be denied if natural factors have not been considered or rightly judged. Yet the overall assessment goes in favour of Conversion System for High Forests. Clear fellings without *lantana* control have proved disastrous in Compartments No. 265, 269, etc. where as its uprooting in compartments No. 266 and 271 have allowed regeneration into beautiful teak crops. Since the flowering of bamboos to a large extent, regeneration of tree species is now free. But its extensive reproduction should be kept to desirable limits and manners. The working in Coppice-with-Reserves have been retained by following lengthy rotation and by cleaning and thinning operations. Khair is facing depletion due to its removal from understocked areas. Plantations of teak and eucalyptus were given attention since 1955 only and they have been successful in Ulat Bahari and Khawasa blocks. But the teak plantations done after 1960 in Seoni, Khawasa

and Barghat ranges have not been cared properly. The new Reserves (Ex-Dewant forests) have yet to show the results of conservancy.

There has been appreciable improvement in roads and fire-control but *shikar* and illegal exploitations could not be curbed. Since 1954, there has been mounting demand for *nistar* and with the strictness of the Forest Officials, under hand activities have increased.

Game laws and Preservation Measures

The destruction of wild life is controlled by the recommendations of the Indian Board of Wild Life. The life protection week is celebrated in October each year to educate the people. The Shooting is controlled by the Madhya Pradesh Shooting Rules, 1963 (Hunting, shooting, fishing, poisoning water, setting traps or snares in reserved and protected forests) made under Sections 26(1), 32(1) and 76(d) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The Madhya Pradesh Game Rules, 1962 framed under the M.P. Game Act, 1935 (XV of 1935) are also applicable along with the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 1962. Under the Shooting Rules the Forest Divisions are divided into several shooting blocks and notified in October each year. Shooting of games in a limited number is allowed in a few shooting blocks only by rotation, on the shooting permit issued by the respective Divisional Forest Officer. Fees for permits and royalty on kills are charged. Shooting of barasingha, bison and black buck is prohibited except with the permission from the Government. Peafowl shooting is totally prohibited, it being the National Bird.

Poaching by villagers, can be checked by putting a vigil on Crop Protection Licences and withdrawal of their arms after the Crop Season is over. City dwellers from Nagpur, Jabalpur and Seoni also indulge in poaching. While their parties drive in jeeps and are armed with torches and guns the poor forest employee finds it difficult to halt them and secure legal evidences.

FAUNA

Due to comparative remoteness the Southern forests are rich in wild life. They have also suffered the growing pressure of men through jeeps and guns as anywhere else in India. Deep forest and consequently a large variety of species, magnificent and wonderful abound, particularly in the contiguous block along the southern slopes and eastern hills.

Carnivorae

The most magnificent and swift is the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) widely abounding in the forest blocks. They have been invariably noted along the perennial streams like Beda nala, Jamun nala, Wamanthadi, Hirri, Pench, Chandni, etc. Pugmarks of all sizes, leading to any direction may always be marked by a foot traveller in the compartments of Gangarkund, Runijhuni, Bodal Kasa, Koraigarh, Raikasa, Lamajoti tank and Ammamai in the South Seoni Division. Though not so frequently they may also be seen in Nagandeori, Paili, Roto, Narmada, Kumal Ugli, Baruban and Shernadi blocks of North Seoni Division.

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) has a yellowish brown colour with black bands. It is the largest feline species of the District. They wander a good deal in winter and rainy seasons, particularly in the night, but stay for stalking at a few haunts near dense growth and water holes in summer. They mate at the two seasons of the year, from October to November in the winter and in April and May in early summer. The gestation takes about eight months and usually two young cubs are dropped from May to June and December to January. A tiger is generally so strong that it pounces on animals holding their necks in his paws and teeth. It attacks from behind with lightening swiftness and can break the spine-cord of the hunt in one stroke of its paw. However, wild pigs, and bison offer a formidable opposition occasionally succeeding in their escape. Tigers have also been reported ploughed to death by boars. A pack of wild dogs may also kill the tiger at the loss of their number. In fact the pack attacks ceaselessly from all sides, heedless of their own losses, until a lonely tiger falls prey to the omnivorous hounds. An old or wounded tiger, or a tigress with young cubs may turn a cattle lifter for easy prey and more saline tastes, and less often a man-eater on the dearth of the deer varieties.

Leopards (*Felis pardus*) is found all over the District. Lighter than the tiger and with black spots of varying sizes it prefers preying on smaller animals abutting to the marginal forests. It haunts the villages in search of young calves, goats, dogs and fowls. A leopard can easily climb up on the trees and also pursue there resting monkeys during nights. Although panthers (*Panthera pardus*) have also been mentioned to exist in South Seoni forest the existence is very much doubtful in the light of their disappearance assessed in the whole of India. Wild dogs (*Cuon dukhunensis*) with golden hair on the body are about the size of a jackal. They are most destructive to wild life and cattle in the southern and eastern forests. They have unfailing scent and though not very fast, have unlimited endurance in pursuing and attacking in packs even the fastest and fiercest of the living creatures, including unarmed men.

Hyaenas (*Hyaena striata*) or *laka baggha* and jackals (*Canis aureus*) are found in open parts while foxes (*Vulpes benghalensis*) remain in light forests. They feed on small game and burrowing creatures. Porcupines and pangolin (*Sial*) depend mostly on ants and other creatures.

Herbivorae

Bison (*Bibos gaurus*) is an important species found in herds of five to fifteen especially in the larger blocks between Seoni-Katangi and Seoni-Nagpur roads as also in the Jam area, and new Reserves and Rimal shooting blocks. They are rare in the west and north. Though their number is also decreasing all over, the presence of calves in the herds is a phenomenon ensuring their fair breeding. The animal is quite dangerous when lonely. Sambhar (*Cervus unicolor*), a large animal is common in the South Division but is limited

to Ghansore and Keolari ranges in the North. Though a herbivorous animal, it is particularly enimical to siyal (*pangolin*) to which it turns upside down and kills by hooving. *Chital* or spotted deer (*axis*) is the commonest deer found in plain forests near water courses. Though facing a general decline it is found in all parts of the District but more frequently in the Pench river valley. Blue bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) or *neelgai* is commonly met within the northern forests damaging field crops during nights.

In the South Forest Division it is generally absent but enters the Division around Telia-Kandlai and Hathigarh from across the Ramtek forest in Maharashtra. Among other antelopes the grand looking *Barasingha* (*Cervus duvancell*), once found in the valleys, is supposed to be extinct now in this District. Even black buck (*Antelope cervicaprae*) and *Chausingha* or four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) are almost extinct in the North Seoni Division. However, black buck is some times seen in Rampuri, Lamajoti, Kariapahar and Ugli Blocks. Rampuri forests in South Division are noted specially for the presence of rare antelopes like *Chausingha* and cheorotain or mouse deer (*Moschola meminna*). Barking deer or bherki (*Muntiacus muntjak*) and Indian gazelle or chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*) are found all over the District but in small numbers in the north.

Indian bear (*Melursus ursinus*) is an ugly animal with long black hair in the body. It has a V-shaped white band on its chest. Though restricted to rocky hills with shelters, it haunts the vicinity of villages and roadside avenues in search of honey, berries and *mahua* flowers in winters before dawn. It takes a man to tasks when offended or hurt and attacks with claws and teeth. It can stand on hind legs and also emits saliva on the opponents face at an encounter. Found in couples or family sometimes young cubs are left behind and caught by *shikaris* and villagers. They are tamed and trained in making fun by showmen in the District.

Indian wild bear or *jangli suar* (*Sus cristatus*) is found abundantly in the District. It keeps to the plain open grass lands, bamboo forests and margins of cultivated areas. A stout and fearless herbivorous animal it ploughs the ground and lives on roots. It is most destructive to the crops and is a formidable foe to who so ever obstructs it, including tigers, bisons and riding gunmen. It approaches the fields late in the night and retires before sun-rise.

Other Animals

Black-faced monkey (*Pithecius entellus*) is the most common primate of the District. It lives in groups and haunts villages, groves, gardens and cultivated fields damaging tiles, and vegetable and field crops. The smaller and red-faced monkey (*Macacus rhesus*) is found in open parts of the northern valleys. The Hanuman of the epic Ramayana, being associated, these are held sacred and are not killed by common men. However, they are caught and exported to U.S.A. and other countries for scientific experiments till recently. It fetched foreign exchange for the Country.

The common hare (*Lepus caudatus*) and rabbit (*Lepus sinicoxi*) are found grazing the grass tips and running across the roads in any night drive. Porcupines (*Hyptrig species*) live on small creatures and burrow circles around on tree barks. They prefer plain forests and keep to the water courses.

Several types of cats, squirrels, mongoose, rats and ant-eaters are also found in the forests or fields not sparing the human habitations. Pithons and snakes of various types including cobra, green snakes and crabs are found. King cobra is generally seen near Keolari.

Aquatic Animals

Otters are found almost in all rivers and streams of the District. Crocodiles are found in deep pools of water in the Pench, Wamanthadi, Hirri and the Wainganga rivers. Tortoises of small size but of various designs on back are found in the rocky pools. They are relished by the tribals for flesh but are also kept in the wells for keeping the water clear and devoid of germs. Frogs, toads, crabs, fishes, mollusks, beetles, snails, shells, etc., of various species are found under the particular climatic and geographical conditions. They are of the type classes found under the Godavari as well as the Narmada systems.

Birds

Birds, closely associated with the human habitations are crow (*Corvus splendens*), wild crow (*Corvus corenoides Cevaillanti*), *goraiya* or house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), *charkhi* or seven sisters, *shyama bhujanga* (*Brochylpernis benghalensis*), wood-pecker, blue joy or *neel kantha phandki* (*Streptopelia chinensis*), several species of parrots (*Psittacula torquata*) *batasi*, nightangle *huhud* or hoopoe (*upupa epops*), etc.

The common game birds are *titar* or painted partridge (*Francolinus pondicerianus*), *gora titar* or grey partridge (*Francolinus pondicerianus*), *Kala titar* or painted partridge (*F. pictus*, *F. vulgaris*), *bater species* (*Coturnix spp.*), *rain-quail* (*Coturnix coromandelica*), *lawa* (*Perdicula argoonda asiatica*), *gundru* or bastard quail (*Turnix pugnax T. jondera*), *turadabki* (*T. dussumieri*), *harial* or green pigeon (*Crocopus chlorogaster* or *C. phornicipterus*), blue rock pigeon (*Columba intermedia*), dove or *kala fakta* (*Turtur meena*, *T. risorius*, etc.), *bhat titar* or sand grouse (*Pterocles fasciatus*), *dhanesh*, etc. Jungle fowl (*Gallus ferrugineus* and *Gallus sonneratti* and *Gallus spadiceus*) and spur fowl (*Gallus spadiceus*) and *gallus lumulatus* are common in the bamboo and lantana bearing areas. Pigeons often frequent the *pipal* (*F. religiosa*) and *gular* (*Ficus glomerata*) trees for their fruits. Pairs of cranes and *bagla* are common around tanks and paddy fields. Pea fowl (*Pavo cristatus*), the National Bird of India is common in the deep forests of Chandarpur and Sakata along the streams. Other birds of the land are *baya* or *tailor* bird (*Ploceus philippinus philippinus* (*fudki*)) *chandu* Cuckoo (*Eudynamis scolopacea*), Brain fever bird or *papika* (*Heiroecceus*) various *baj*, (*Falco peregrinus*)

peregrinus), vultures (*Acciptres*), kites (*Austurbadins peregrinus*), kites (*Austurbadins dussumicri*), etc.

Ducks and Teals

Captain Oxley's account of ducks given in the old District Gazetteer narrates the scarcity of the nukta or comb duck (*Sarcidioris melanonotus*) which is found in small parties. Whistling teal, large whistling teal (*Dendrocygna fulva*) and cotton teal (*Nettapus cotomandelianus*) are all very common. The last one is found in parties of ten to twelve on weedy tanks especially when there are high rushes. Among the migratory ducks are the common teal met with in large flocks, this being perhaps the earliest visitor and also staying late, the garganey teal (*Querque-dula circa*) which is also common and stays very late, the red-crested pochard, a wary duck of which not many can be shot at a time as it leaves the tank at the first discharge; the white eyed pochard which is common and can be shot in large numbers, as it has a habit of concealing itself in reeds and can be put up singly; the tufted pochard which keeps to the centre of large tanks, and pintail (*Dofila acuta*) which also leaves the tank at the first shot. The shoveller which frequents the tanks and the Wainganga river; the gadwall an early visitor and easy prey for the Christmas, the ruddy sheldrake pairs met along the Narmada and on secluded tanks are also the common visitor birds of the District. The wigson (*Mareea penelope*) and spot-bill (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) are rare and demoiselle crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) very rare.

Fishes

About 40 species of fishes were counted in 1966. Most abundant of them from the fishing point of view are katla (*Catla catla*), rohu (*Labeo rohita*), kursa (*Labio gonius*), bagna (*L. bata*), naren (*Cirrhina mrigala*), rewa (*C. reba*), serni (*Barbus sarana*), khalputa (*Netopterus netopterus*), potala or lounch padin (*Wallago attu*) and bhinta (*Ophio cephalus*). Of these katla having upward mouth is surface feeder living on algae, larvae, grass-hoppers, beetles, etc. Roha is middle feeder having frontal mouth and mrigala, having downward mouth, is a bottom-feeder. These fishes prefer alkaline water having PPM 6.4 to 8 and 70°F. to 90°F. temperature. Clean phyto-plankton and zoos-plankton water pH. 7 to 9 deep is most favourable to them while the muddy water chokes their gills causing breathing difficulties.

Mortality from Raptiles and Wild Animals

Reptiles cause a good number of deaths every year more frequently during the rains. In the year 1973 five to six deaths due to snake bite were reported each at Keolari, Ghansore and Chhapara Police Stations, the total for the district being 29. Winter months are safest from snake bite. Casualties inflicted by wild animals are insignificant, only a *Guhra* and bees are reported to have caused one death each in Seoni and Bandol respectively.

CLIMATE

The climate of this District is characterised by general dryness except during the south-west monsoon season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from December to February is followed by the hot season which lasts up to the middle of June. The period from about June to September is the south-west monsoon season. October and November constitute the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Temperature

There is a meteorological observatory in the District at Seoni and the records of this station can be taken as representative of the conditions prevailing in the District in general. Temperature begins to rise steadily from about the end of February. May is generally the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 39.9°C. and the mean daily minimum at 24.8°C. The weather in the period April to mid-June is oppressively hot with the maximum temperature on individual days some times reaching 43°C. and above.

Hot dust-raising winds blow on many of the days. Afternoon thundershower which occur on certain days bring welcome relief from the heat. With the onset of the monsoon in the District by about mid-June, there is appreciable drop in temperature and the weather becomes pleasant. In October after the withdrawal of the monsoon there is a slight increase in day temperature. But nights become progressively cooler. After October both the day and night temperatures decrease rapidly. December is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum at 25.5°C. and the mean daily minimum at 10.4°C. Cold waves in association with passing western disturbances affect the District occasionally during the cold season. The minimum temperature on such occasions drops down to about 3°C.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Seoni was 45.0°C. on 1942, June 9. The lowest minimum was 2.8°C. recorded on 1937, January 7.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the District are available for four stations for periods ranging from 40 to 95 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the District as a whole are given in Appendix-A tables 1 and 2. The annual rainfall in the District is 1384.5 mm. The rainfall in the District increases from the west towards the east and varies from 1269.9 mm. at Lakhanadon to 1474.2 mm. at Keolari. About 85 per cent of the annual rainfall in the District is received during the monsoon months June to September, July being the rainiest month. The variation in the rainfall in the District from year to year is not large. In the 50 year period from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall in the District amounting to 132 per cent of the normal occurred in 1933. The year 1902 received the lowest annual rainfall which was 60 per cent of the normal. In the same period annual rainfall in the District was less than 80

per cent of the normal in only 6 years, none of them being consecutive. Considering the annual rainfall at individual stations it is seen that two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred once at Seoni and Ghansore, and 3 consecutive years once at Keolari and Lakhanadon. It will be seen from table 2 that the annual rainfall in the District was between 1,100 and 1,600 mm. in 37 years out of 50.

On an average there are 69 rainy days (*i.e.* days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. 10 per cents or more) in a year in the District. This number varies from 64 at Lakhanadon to 72 both at Seoni and Keolari.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the District was 281.9 mm. at Seoni on 1913, August. 2.

Humidity

During the monsoon season the air over the District is highly humid with the relative humidity generally exceeding 70 per cent. The atmosphere is generally dry during the rest of the year. The driest part of the year is the summer season when the relative humidities in the afternoons are less than 30 per cent.

Cloudiness

During the south-west monsoon season skies are generally heavily clouded or overcast. Skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded in the rest of the year, the afternoons of the summer season being generally more cloudy.

Winds

Winds are generally light with an increase in force during the summer and monsoon seasons. Winds generally blow from directions between south-west and north-west during the south-west monsoon season. In the post monsoon and winter seasons winds are generally from directions between north and east. In January and February in the afternoons winds from directions between east and south also blow on some days. In the summer season winds are mostly from directions between south-west and north.

Special Weather Phenomena

Depressions originating in the Bay of Bengal during the monsoon season move in some westerly direction and reach the District or its neighbourhood causing widespread heavy rain and gusty winds. Some of the storms and depressions from the Bay of Bengal during the post monsoon season also affect the District similarly. Thunder storms occur during the summer and southwest monsoon seasons. Occasionally dust storms affect the District during summer.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 in Appendix A give the temperature and relative humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena, respectively, for Seoni.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Pre-history

Stone age tools of several categories, discovered in 1959-60, during an exploration near the source of the Wainganga have established the fact, that the District was inhabited by the people of the Palaeolithic culture. A thick grave near Bandol yielded choppers, disceidal and irregular cores and scrappers on large flakes. Tools of series II were picked up from comparatively fine grained and consolidated gravel of Alonia, Kanhiwada, Chhapara and Suakheda villages. These included scrappers, points, arrow-heads, tanged and shouldered points, boiers on chert, axe-like tools, burins, thick blades and a small cordiform tools of fine workmanship, etc.¹ Seoni town itself is the find spot of middle stone age tools.²

Sepulchral Monuments

About 33 km. to the north of Seoni there is a village named Sarekha, near the confluence of the Wainganga and the Hirri. Some megalithic remains have been discovered from that place in the form of cremlechs or sepulchral monuments, consisting of large stone slabs standing four or five together with another laid along their tops, and arranged in circles forty or fifty feet in diameter. These are believed to be Indo-Scythian in origin.³ These are generally found to contain iron or copper and bronze weapons, tools and earthen vessels.

Unfortunately there is no direct reference to this District either in the Epics or in the scriptures to serve as a guide for the reconstruction of a connected account of the area.

The Nandas and Mauryas

Before the rise of the Mauryas probably the Nandas were the overlords of this area, for according to the Puranas, Mahapadma, the first of the Nandas was the destroyer of all the Kshatriyas (*Sarva Kshatrantakah*) and the sole monarch (*Ekrat*) of the earth.⁴ The distribution of Asoka's inscription indicates that he was the sole monarch of India excepting the four kingdoms of extreme south. Thus, although there is no direct evidence of Mauryan rule, we might include the Seoni District in the mighty Magadhan Empire.

1. Indian Archaeology, A Review 1959-60, p. 25, 1960-61, p. 62.

2. *ibid.* 1961-62, p. 100.

3. M.G. Dixit, *Madhya Pradesh Ke Puratona Ki Roop Rekha*, p. 61, *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, pp. 37-38.

4. *Age of the Nandas and the Mauryas*, Ed. by Nilakanta Sastri, pp. 238-36.

Sungas

During the weak rule of the successors of Asoka many local rulers ceased to owe their allegiance to the Mauryan emperor and asserted their independence. Probably Vidarbha rulers were one such line of independent chieftains. The last of the Mauryan kings, Brihadratha was over-thrown by his minister Pushyamitra Sunga in 184 B.C. His son Agnimitra, the hero of Kalidasa's *Malavikagnimitram*, was his father's viceroy at Vidisha. He defeated the Vidarbha king Yajnasena beyond the Narmada.¹ Vidarbha was partitioned under Sunga suzerainty, between Yajnasena and his cousin (or nephew) Madhavasena, who was none other than a close relative to Malavika, the second wife of Agnimitra and the heroine of Kalidasa's drama *Malavikagnimitram*.

Seoni, now an adjacent district of Maharashtra, was then included in Vidarbha. It witnessed this discomfiture of its ruler.

The Early Satavahanas

In the second half of the first century B. C., the Satavahanas rose to power in the trans-Vindhyan region. One of the early Satavahana rulers viz., Satakarni-I (27-17 B. C.) is stated to have conquered western Malwa and the territory to the south of it and Vidisha.²

He might be the same Satakarni, whose inscription appears on the gateway of the Sanchi Stupa.³

It is interesting to note that coins of these Southern rulers were found in Tripuri (near Jabalpur), Khidia (in Hoshangabad) and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh⁴. The district was thus included in the Satavahana empire.

In between, during the reign of Nahapana, the greatest of the Saka Kshatrapas of Western India, belonging to the Kshaharata line, Seoni probably had to change its allegiance. Because, it is claimed in the Nasik and Karla inscriptions of Ushavadatta (or Rishavadatta, the son-in-law of Nahapana, with whom he was ruling jointly in the 1st Century A. D.) that Nahapana, in association with his son-in-law tore away Eastern and Western Malwa, and some parts of Vidarbha after defeating the Satavahanas.

1. *Malavikagnimitram*, Act V, Verse 20; B.M. Barua and Sinha, *Bharhut Inscriptions*, p. 3.
2. Nanaghat Inscription of Nayarika (Naganika), List No. 1112.
3. R.S. Tripathi, *History of Ancient India*, p. 194.
4. Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XII, pt. II, pp. 94-97, 126-33, Vol. XIII, pt. I, pp. 46-52; Vol. XIV, Pt. I, p. 35, Pt. II, pp. 1-3; Report of the Archaeological Survey of India (Annual Report), 1913-14, p. 208.

He is said to have performed two *Asvamedha* sacrifices after defeating his powerful enemy.¹ Soon Gautamiputra Satakarni (c. 106-30 A. D.) "extirpated the Kshaharata dynasty" and recovered the lost territory. According to his Nasik *Prasasti* he was the lord of Anupa, Akara, Avanti and Vidarbha, Vinjha and Achhavata (Satpura).² He is also called the *Benakataka* swami, or the master of the Wainganga in the same epigraph. It proves beyond doubt that the district came under the way of the Satavahana dynasty for a certain length of time.

Later, the Satavahanas, however, proved weak to the strong arms of the great Western Kshatrapa Chashtana of the Kardamaka family and his grandson Rudradaman, who recovered some of their lost territories from their Southern rivals (A. D. 130-31). It is not known whether any portion of the district was recovered by these Western Kshatrapas.

The Gaudas

According to Ptolemy's geographical account of 140 A. D. the region was inhabited by the Kondalis, whom Cunningham thinks none other than the Gaudas. These Western Gaudas are supposed to have reigned over the Satpura region at an early period and later came to be known as the Gonds.³

The Vakatakas

The Satavahanas and the Western Kshatrapas were supplanted by the Vakatakas in Vidarbha region during third-fourth Centuries A. D. Historians differ on the exact location of their headquarters, but most probably it was located in old Central Provinces, from where most of their epigraphic records, were picked up.⁴ An inscribed plate of this dynasty, viz. of Pravarasena II adds support to the conjecture that the District was in possession of the Vakatakas.⁵ There is also a theory that the Kshatrapa ruler Rudra Sinha II, and Rudradaman II became Vakataka feudatories for some time. The theory is based on the fact that a hoard of Kshatrapa coins were discovered in Chhindwara the adjoining district, of which Seoni was a part till 1956. The aforesaid rulers are represented on the coins.⁶

The *Puranas* mention Vindhyaśakti as the founder of the Vakataka dynasty and a ruler of Vidisha. Its early capital Purika is also stated to be connected with Vidarbha and Asmaka.⁷ His son Pravarasena-I was the only ruler of this dynasty to assume the title of *Samrat* or emperor, and the latter's grandson Rudrasena-I was ruling over the greater part of old Central Provinces. Pravarasena performed four *Asvamedha* Sacrifices, one of which might have been after his conquest towards east, covering the eastern and northern districts of old Central Provinces, including Jabalpur and Balaghat.⁷

1. A Comprehensive History of India, Vol. II, pp. 308-10, Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XXI, Pt. I, p. 9. Vol. XIV, p. 4 and Vol. XIII, pt. I, p. 50.
2. Indian Antiquary, Vol. XIII, 1919, pp. 150-51.
3. Betul District Gazetteer, p. 25.
4. R. C. Majumdar, *Ancient India*, p. 269.
5. Hiralal, *Inscriptions in C. P. & Berar*, p. 69.
6. R. C. Majumdar and A. S. Altekar, *The Vakataka Gupta Age*, p. 59.
7. *ibid*, p. 96.

Gradually he conquered for himself a vast empire comprising northern Maharashtra, Vidarbha, old Central Provinces to the south of the Narmada, and considerable part of Hyderabad, all under his direct administration.¹

Sa mudragupta

During his conquests over Aryavartya in A. D. 344-48 Samudragupta seems to have deprived Rudrasena-I Vakataka of the eastern part of his territory between the Jamuna and Vidisha. But he did not usurp the central and western parts of his dominion as a result of a possible alliance between him and Rudrasena's son Prithvisena-I (A. D. 348-375). The latter's inscriptions show that he was the Master of territory extending from the Jamuna to the south west of the Vindhya.² The Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta, however, does not make any mention of the Vakatakas.³ Rudrasena's grandson Rudrasena II married Prabhavati Gupta, the daughter of Chandragupta-II and gradually the waning power of the Vakatakas came under the strong influence of the Guptas. The influence of the Gupta court was further intensified by Prabhavati Gupta, who acted as an efficient regent after her husband's death for a considerably long time.

Nala Invasion

During the reign of Narendrasena (440-460) A.D. the Vakataka king had to face a great calamity. The Vakataka kingdom was occupied by the Nala king Bhavadatta-varman of Bastar in the middle of the 5th century A. D. Soon after the death of Bhavadatta Varman the Nalas were driven out by Narendrasena, who not only reoccupied all his territory but marched against the enemy and devastated their capital.⁴ In the last quarter of the 5th century A. D. Seoni seems to have been included in Harishena Vakataka's territory, formerly a ruler of a minor Vakataka branch of Basim. Afterwards, he managed to get effective possession of the entire Vakataka dominion including eastern portion of modern Madhya Pradesh and Central India.⁵

In the third quarter of the 6th Century A. D. the Chalukyas exterminated the Vakatakas and became the sole monarch of the south. Harshavardhan (606-647-647 A. D.) of Kanauj was the emperor of northern India while his contemporary Chalukya ruler Pulakesin II (610-11—c. 647 A. D.) had that position in South India, the river Narmada formed the boundary between their empires.⁶ Lying south of the river, Seoni was thus included in the realm of the Chalukyas.

At the time of death of Harishena Vakataka in c. 510 A. D. the Vakataka power was at its zenith sometime in the last quarter of the sixth century A. D. the Vakataka kingdom might have passed under the suzerainty of the early Kalachuris, whose vast kingdom is believed to have comprised Gujarat, Northern Maharashtra and greater parts of Malwa.

1. *ibid.* pp. 96-79.

2. R. K. Mookerji, *The Gupta Empire*, p. 23 (Some historians think that during Prithvisena-I's reign the rulers of Kosala and eastern Deccan were under the vassalage of the Vakataka king, they were vanquished then reinstated to their position by Samudragupta, Vhyaghraraja was one chieftain, see *op. cit.* *Vakataka Gupta Age* p. 105).

3. Fleet, *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III, pp. 13-16.

4. *The Vakataka Gupta Age*, pp. 116-117.

5. *ibid.* pp. 272-273 and 121.

6. R. C. Majumdar, H. C. Chaudhuri and K. K. Dutta, *An Advanced History of India*, Pt. I, pp. 156-157.

The Early Kalachuris, and Rashtrakutas

The capital of early Kalachuris was located at Mahishmati. The founder of the dynasty was Krishna Raja, his son was Sankaragana and grandson Buddharaja. Buddharaja, whose known dates are 550-611 A. D., is believed to have been ousted by the Chalukyas and later, in the 9th century A. D. a branch of this line of kings moved eastward and carved out a kingdom in the Dahala or Chedi region with their capital at Tripuri.

The District seems to have been possessed for some time by the Rashtrakutas of Achalpur (Illichpur). From the discovery of a few inscriptions from the neighbouring district of Betul it is known that at least four rulers of this Rashtrakuta lineage held sway over Betul-Amravati region in the 7th and 8th centuries A. D. The rulers were Durgaraja, his son Govindaraja, grandson Svamikaraja and great grandson Nannaraja also known as Yudharaja. In all probability Durgaraja was appointed a Rashtrakuta (Provincial Governor) by the Chalukya Emperor Pulakesin and Durgaraja might have ruled almost independently after his overlord's death some time in the middle of the 7th century A. D.² It is not unlikely that these rulers were originally feudatories of the early Kalachuris, later transferred their allegiance to the Chalukyas of Badami and shifted their capital from Nandivardhana (near Nagpur) to Achalpur.³

By c. 750 A. D., however, Dantidurga of the Rashtrakuta House of Manyakheta overthrew this Chalukya king of Vatapi and became the lord of Berar, modern Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.⁴

Kalachuris of Tripuri

As stated earlier a branch of the Earlier Kalachuri dynasty founded a vast kingdom in Chedi region with their capital at Tripuri, near modern Jabalpur. Gradually the mighty kings of this royal house extended their territories far and wide and incorporated in the fold of their kingdom all the neighbouring regions. Seoni District, lying so close to their capital, must have come under their sway.

The founder of this dynasty was Kokalla-I (c. 850-890) whom the Kalachuri inscriptions give credit for vanquishing many powerful monarchs. He is represented as having "conquered the whole earth".⁵ According to Kalachuri inscription, there were about 150 other kings of this house, who ruled over this region till the middle of the 13th century. Some of the more illustrious were Yuvarajadeva-I (c. 915-945 A. D.), Lakshmanaraja II (c. 945-970 A. D.), Kokalla II (c. 990-1015 A. D.) Lakshmikarna (c. 1041-1073) and Yasahkarna (c. 1073-1123).

1. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XI, p. 276; *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XVIII, p. 230; *Himala Inscriptions in C. P. and Berar*, pp. 88-89; *Classical Age*, pp. 199-202.

2. *ibid.*

3. V. V. Mirashi, *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. IV, p. XLVIII, and p. LXXXIII (Foot note).

4. *The Age of Imperial Kanauj*, p. 2; *An Advanced History of India*, pt. I, p. 415.

5. V. V. Mirashi, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pt. I, pp. LXVIII-LXIX.

The Chandels

The Kalachuri kings were probably ousted from this tract by the Chandel kings of Mahoba. According to a local legend, recorded in the old Gazetteer of Seoni,¹ Sona Rani, a princess of Amodagarh, who lived at Kohgarh² above the river Hirri was forcefully carried away by the famous Banaphar generals Alha and Udal.

This local tale is probably a reminiscent of the historical fact of the conquest of the Chedi territory by the Chandels of Mahoba. The legendary heroes Alha and Udal are believed to have carried out their exploits during the reign of the illustrious king Parmardideva (1165-1202). During the reign of the subsequent Chandel rulers, namely, Trailokya Varman, Vira Varman, Bhoja Varman and Hammira Varman (1288-c. 1310) the Chandel kings were fighting occasionally with the Chedi rulers to occupy and reoccupy their lost territories.

Gond Dynasty

There is a hiatus in the history of this region for about two centuries, till the fifteenth century when part of the District fell under the domination of the rising Gond dynasty of Garha-Mandla. In northern India, the fifteenth century was an epoch of unparalleled confusion. The Muslim empire broke up completely after Timur's invasion, and the weakening of the centralized power left Gondwana to its fate. The old Rajput dynasties had disappeared and the first Maharaja of Garha saw the way to establish a petty kingdom of his own. At this juncture, Kharji, the head or patriarch of some Gond clan, displayed great strength and sufficient wit to assert an authority over his fellows, and founded a long line of Garha Kings.³

The other Gond dynasties established in Madhya Pradesh, during this period, were the Gond Kingdom of Chanda, Kherla (Betul) dynasty and the Gond Kingdom of Deogarh (Chhindwara).⁴

Abul Fazl, in his *Akbarnama*, gives the story of the origin of the Garha-Mandla family in brief. He writes, "Though from old times the house of the ruler of Garha was of high rank yet it had nothing beyond reverence. This Kharji by ability and contrivance took things under the domination of *pesh kash*, from the other rulers of the country and so collected 100 cavalry and 10,000 infantry". Evidently Abul Fazl refers to a time when the country was not under any central power but was divided up among a number of local chieftains.⁵

This was the condition of affairs in Gondwana at the beginning of the 15th century. Naturally a number of warring chiefs came into existence when the

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, p. 26.

2. A fort in Balaghat district.

3. C. U. Wills, *The Raj-Gond Maharajas of the Satpura Hills*, pp. 7, 30-31.

4. Prayag Dutt Shukla, *Madhya Pradesh ka Itihas aur Nagpur ke Bhojale*, pp. 48, 60-61, 63 & 69.

5. Abul Fazl, *Akbarnama*, Tr. by H. Beveridge, Vol. II, pp. 324-25.

central Muslim authority was weakened. In the 13th century power of the Chandels was an obstacle to the growth of a Raj-Gond Kingdom. In the 14th century, the activities of the central Muslim power and the constant movement of their armies through and around Gondwana would not have made it possible the rise of any new principality in the region. But by the beginning of the 15th century both these powers had declined and Kharji, a mere tribal patriarch succeeded in setting himself up as an independent authority in about 1440 A.D.

The early rulers of Garha Kingdom held the country for about hundred years. Kharji was succeeded by his son Sukhan Das (Sangin Das)¹ who carried on the father's plans and increased his power, collecting 500 cavalry and 60,000 infantry. He had a number of Rajput soldiers among his cavalry and infantry. After him his son Arjun Das, when he was forty years of age, came to the *Gaddi*. Arjun Das was later succeeded by his elder son Aman Das better known as Sangram Shah. Aman Das was, however, a trickster and evildoer in his early life. He always acted against the will of his father and therefore, his father Arjun Das out of regard for him kept him in confinement for some time and then set him free to follow his own ways. Aman Das later went to Bir Singh Deo (1500-1540 A.D.) the grand father of Ram Chandra, the Raja of Rewa. The Raja adopted him as his son. Bir Singh Deo entered the service of Sultan Sikandar Lodi and left Aman Das with Vir Bhan, the father of Raja Ram Chand, who was then a youngman. Aman Das, in the meanwhile killed his own father by treachery with a view to occupying the *gaddi*. On hearing the sad news Bir Singh Deo marched against Aman Das for chastising him. Thereupon Aman Das took refuge in the mountain defiles and later paid homage to Bir Singh Deo with a few followers. After much lamentation Bir Singh Deo forgave him and made over country to him.² Sangram Shah (1480-1530 A.D.)

It is to Sangram Shah that northern Gondwana owes its real greatness and fame. Till his accession to the *gaddi*, the sway of the Gond rulers was confined to the region around Jabalpur and Mandla. Sangram Shah extended his dominions over fifty-two *garhas* or districts comprising Sagar, Damoh and possibly Bhopal, the Narmada valley and Mandla and Seoni on the Satpura. A *salt* record found at Thurtaka, 15 miles from Damoh, shows that his authority extended at least fifty miles north of his capital at Garha.³ Ghansor, Chauri (Chauri) and Dongartal were three of the fifty-two *garhas* included in the possessions of Sangram Shah and the territories attached to these made up the bulk of the present District of Seoni.⁴ Within the limits of these *garhas* was the region of Seoni-Chhapara which was then called the pargana of Chauri (a small village, 5 miles south of Seoni town).⁵

1. C. U. Wills, op. cit., p. 32-33 and f. n. 44, f. n.

2. A variant gives 'son of Gorahh Das, son of Kharji.' Thus Sangin Das was the grandson of Kharji. (C. U. Wills, op. cit., p. 34 f. n.)

3. Abul Fazl, *Akbarnama*, tr. by H. Beveridge, Vol. II, pp. 325-26.

4. Inscriptions in C. P. and Berar, p. 61; *Damoh Despatch*, p. 81.

5. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 27; C. U. Wills, op. cit. pp. 112-113.

6. *Seoni-Prachin Avam Arochit*, p. 7.

Sangram Shah maintained cordial relations with the contemporary rulers. In 1517 A.D., 'Shahzada' Jalal defied his brother Sultan Ibrahim Lodi and went to Garha-Katanga from where he was captured and sent to Agra to gain good will of the Sultan.¹ He gave valuable assistance to Sultan Bahadur Shah of Gujarat in the conquest of Raisen fort in 1526 A.D. Bahadur Shah is, therefore, said to have increased his dignity by giving him the title of 'Sangram Shah'.² But this name is found on his coins even before this date. It, therefore, suggests that the title was self-assumed and the local writings corroborate that it was assumed some time in 1484 A.D.³

Another notable event of his reign was the marriage of his heir-apparent, Dalpat Shah, with Durgawati, the daughter of Raja Salivahan of Rath and Mahoba, a scion of the celebrated Chandela dynasty.

Sangram Shah, after ruling the country for nearly 50 years, died in 1530 A.D. He was succeeded by his son Dalpat Shah who had an uneventful reign. On his death, his son Narayan being about three or five years of age, the queen Durgawati assumed the reins of the Government. For next sixteen years (1548-1564 A.D.) she governed the country well with the help of her ministers and such was the extent of prosperity that people paid their rent in gold mohurs and elephants.⁴ Trade and commerce was in a flourishing condition throughout the length and breadth of the country. She also extended her territory and accomplished the political unification of Gondwana by her bravery and tact.⁵ Muslim historians have paid glowing tributes to her for beauty, courage, bravery, talent and character.⁶

Durgawati distinguished herself in warfare and fought with success against the invading Sultan of Malwa, Baz Bahadur.⁷ On another occasion the Miana Afghans of Sironj invited Ibrahim Sur to be their ruler in opposition to Baz Bahadur. Durgawati also espoused their cause and marched from her own country to support them. On hearing this, Baz Bahadur sent some persons to the Rani with a view to inducing her to relinquish her design and thus averted a clash.⁸

Asaf Khan, the Governor of Kara-Manikpur, fired by the tales of her wealth and hope of rich territorial gains, decided to attack her dominions. He first attacked the bordering villages and hamlets and finally embarked on its conquest.

1. Elliot and Dowson, *History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol. V, p. 12.

2. *Akbarnama*, Vol. II, pp. 325-26.

3. Hirajal, *Madhya Pradesh Ka Itihas*, p. 90.

4. Abul Fazi, *Ain-i-Akbari*, Tr. by H. S. Jarret, vol. II, p. 207.

5. C. U. Wills, op. cit., pp. 53-58.

6. Badami, *Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh*, Tr. by W. H. Lowe, Vol. II, p. 66, Nizamuddin, *Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Tr. by B. De, Vol. II, p. 170, Ferishta, *Tarikh-i-Fayishta* Tr. by John Briggs, Vol. I, p. 234.

7. *Tarikh-i-Ferishta*, op. cit., Vol. IV, pp. 276-77, C. U. Wills, op. cit., pp. 56-57.

8. Elliot and Dowson, op. cit., Vol. V, pp. 244-45.

He entered Gondwana with an imperial army, consisting of 10,000 cavalry and a large number of infantry. In the first attack, her force was victorious and nearly 300 Mughals were slain in the encounter. But in the second encounter, she was wounded by two arrows of the enemy and she willingly stabbed herself into the heart so that she might not fall alive into the hands of the enemy. Thus perished the chivalrous Rani who, as Sleeman remarks, 'lives most in the pages of history and the grateful recollections of the people'.¹ Soon after her son Bir Narayan was also killed in the siege of Chauragarh.² This brought Gondwana under the domination of the Mughals, but the Garha-Mandla chiefs continued to administer the country with certain limitations.

For the next 25 years, Akbar appointed a succession of Mughal officers with plenary powers, to hold the country on his behalf.³ Finding the management of this hilly tract irksome, Akbar also restored Chandra Shah, younger brother of Dalpat Shah, to a part of his former kingdom, consisting of ten *garhs*.⁴ Chandra Shah's successor, Madhukar Shah, came to the throne by killing his elder brother treacherously. Later he repented so much for the crime that he took his own life by voluntarily burning himself in a dry hollow *pipal* tree.⁵ Madhukar Shah was the first prince of the dynasty who visited the Mughal court for the purpose of paying his respects to the emperor.⁶ His son Prem Narayan also waited upon Jahangir and made an offering of seven elephants, male and female, to him in 1617 A.D. Jahangir promoted him to a *mansab* of 1,000 personal and 500 horse and an order was given that *jagir* should be provided to him out of his native country. Prem Narayan then soon obtained leave from the emperor to go to his *jagir*.⁷

On Madhukar Shah's self immolation, Prem Narayan left his eldest son, Hirde Shah, to represent him at the Imperial Court and hastened back to Garha. In 1634 A.D. Jhujhar Singh, son of Raja Birsingh Deo of Orchha, attacked the Gond Raja, Prem Narayan, and seized the fort of Chauragarh after his treacherous assassination. Hirde Shah, on receiving the news, hastened back to his country and avenged himself by attacking and killing the aggressor. He transferred his capital from Garha to Ramnagar, a place 10 miles from Mandla.⁸

Hirde Shah died in 1678 A.D. and was succeeded by Chhattar Shah (1678-85 A.D.) who ruled for 7 years. On his death, his son Kesari Shah (1685-88 A. D. succeeded him, but soon after Hari Singh usurped the *gaddi* by putting his nephew to death.⁹

1. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. 68, 1837.

2. Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vol. VII, p. 3.

3. *Akbarnama*, Vol. II, pp. 405-06; Vol. III, pp. 629, 655, 701.

4. Hirajal, *Madhya Pradesh Ka Itihas*, p. 93.

5. *ibid.*, pp. 93-94.

6. Journal of Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1837, Vol. VI, Pt. II, p. 630.

7. *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri*, Tr. by Rogers and Ed. by H. Beveridge, Vol. I, pp. 379, 388 and 411.

8. Prayag Dutt Shukla, *Madhya Pradesh Aur Nagpur Ke Bhamas*, pp. 56-58, *Madhya Pradesh Aur Bazar Ka Itihas*, pp. 126-27, (Govt. of M. P.).

9. Hirajal, op. cit., pp. 94-95.

But the people resented this act of usurpation and, rising in revolt, proclaimed Narind Shah, son of Kesari Shah, then about seven years of age, as their ruler. They collected a strong force and killed Hari Singh, the usurper, and drove away his son Pahar Singh from the field¹.

Narind Shah's reign (1638-1732 A.D.) was marred by interminable domestic disputes which led to cession of territory to the Mughals, to the Bundelas and to the Raja of Deogarh².

Pahar Singh, son of Hari Singh, was a brave and enterprising man. He joined the army of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb then employed in the siege of Bijapur and served there under the command of Diler Khan the Mughal general. Diler Khan was so much pleased with his services that after the fall of Bijapur he sent with him a body of troops, to assist him in the conquest of Mandla. Pahar Singh was met by the young prince, his cousin, near the banks of the river Doodhee at Fatehpur. Here an action took place in which Narind Shah was defeated and his general killed. Narind Shah later proceeded to Sohagpur, where he collected his scattered forces and attacked Pahar Singh near the village of Ketugaon. Pahar Singh was defeated and killed in the action, and Narind Shah returned to Mandla and made that place his seat of Government.³

Pahar Singh's two sons, who had fled from the battle field, then made an attempt to seek the help of the Mughals, but in vain. Thereupon they renounced their religion for that of Islam, and obtained the support of a small body of troops with which they returned to the valley of the Narmada, under the acquired names of Abdur Rahman and Abdul Hajeer. Ultimately an action took place in which his cousins were defeated and both killed. In this contest Narind Shah was ably assisted by two Pathan feudatories, Azim Khan, who held jagir of Barha, a part of Fatehpur (Narsimhapur) district, and Lunde Khan, who held the jagir of Chauri (in Seoni District). Taking advantage of the disorderly affairs of the region and of the weakness of Narind Shah, they made an attempt to establish an independent authority over all the territories south of the Narmada. Narind Shah, realising the situation, sought the help of Bakht Buland, the Raja of Deogarh, and with their united force defeated both the Pathan rebels. Lunde Khan was killed in action at Pratapur near Seoni, in the district of Chauri, and Azim Khan near the village of Khurai in Narsimhapur district. For this assistance, Narind Shah ceded to Bakht Buland the districts of Chauri, Dongartal and Ghanser, which now constitute parts of Seoni District⁴. According to a local legend, Lunde Khan's headless trunk went on fighting after his death until he reached his house. His tomb is still worshipped by the people of the place⁵. Bakht Buland then entrusted the administration of his new dominions to Ram Singh, one of his relatives. Thus the major parts of present Seoni District came under the control Deogarh rules in the beginning of the 18th century.

1. *Madhya Pradesh Aur Berar Ka Itihas*, p. 128; C. U. Wills, op. cit., p. 96.
2. *Madhya Pradesh Aur Berar Ka Itihas*, pp. 129-30.
3. *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 1837, Vol. VI, pp. 633-34.
4. *Ibid.* p. 635; *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 27.
5. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 27.

Narind Shah was succeeded by his son Maharaj Shah in 1731 A.D. He had in his possession only 29 *garhs* out of 52 *garhs* held by his ancestor Sangram Shah. In 1742 A. D. Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao attacked Mandla and killed Maharaj Shah. His son, Shivraj Singh, was then raised to the *gaddi* by the Peshwa on the condition of paying 4 lakhs as tribute to the Marathas every year. Nagpur Raja later confiscated six of his *garhs* on the pretext of non-payment of tribute to the Marathas¹.

Shivraj Singh died in 1749 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Durjan Shah. His uncle, Nizam Shah, however, murdered him treacherously and acquired the throne of Garha-Mandla kingdom. Then came a period of disputes of succession and the last ruler Narhar Shah was imprisoned by the Marathas in the fort of Khurai (Sagar District), where he died in 1789 A. D. Thus came to an end the Gond Kingdom of Garha-Mandla in the last decade of the 18th century.²

Deogarh Kingdom

It is believed that the founder of the independent dynasty of Deogarh was Jatwa, whose capital was at Deogarh, about 24 miles south-west of Chhindwara. Down to 1564 A.D., when Asaf Khan invaded Gondwana, Jatwa's predecessors were feudatory chiefs subordinate to the Garha kings. Following the breakup of the Garha kingdom, when a succession of Mughal officers were appointed to administer the territory, Jatwa a powerful local chief asserted his authority over the surrounding territory. *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions that a jagirdar called Chatwa (Jatwa) ruled over this territory of Madhya Pradesh in about 1590 A.D.³

Kok-Shah

During the reign of Kok Shah, one of the Sons of Jatwa, who perhaps came to the *gaddi* in the year 1634 A.D., Khan Dauran launched an invasion against Deogarh. Kok Shah has been referred to as Kokiyan in *Badshah-nama* by Abdul Hamid Lahori. It was refusal to pay tribute which led Shah Jahan's general's assault. Kok Shah had to acknowledge the Mughal emperor's suzerainty and had to pay a huge indemnity. He also assured loyalty to the Mughal court and was therefore restored to his possessions⁴.

Bakht Buland

The most famous ruler of this dynasty was Bakht Shah (Bakht Buland Shah) who succeeded to the *gaddi* of Deogarh, and was the third or fourth in descent from Jatwa. Bakht Shah was an ambitious ruler and waited upon Aurangzeb with costly presents. The Emperor recognised him as the ruler of Deogarh and conferred on him the title of 'Bakht Buland'. Bakht Shah also embraced Islam and returned to his kingdom⁵.

1. *Madhya Pradesh Aur Berar Ka Itihas* p. 131.
2. Prayag Dutt Shukla, *Madhya Pradesh Ka Itihas Aur Nagpur Ka Bhonsle*, pp. 59-60.
3. *Ibid.* pp. 60-51; Abul Fazl, *Ain-i-Akbari*, Tr. by H. S. Jarret, Vol. II, pp. 237 and 240.
4. Quoted in by C. U. Wills in *Raj-Gond Maharajas of Satpura Hills*, pp. 138-142.
5. *Madhya Pradesh Aur Berar Ka Itihas*, pp. 116-117; *Chhindwara District Gazetteer*, 1907, pp. 28-29.

Bakht Shah, after his return from Delhi, made attempts to extend his territories and reorganised the administration of his kingdom. As already stated, Narind Shah, the Raja of Garha-Mandla kingdom, had ceded him the districts of Chauri, Dongartal and Ghansor for his timely assistance. Bakht Buland soon came to his new dominions and was engaged one day in a hunting expedition near Seoni, when he was attacked by a wounded bear. An unknown Pathan adventurer, Raj Khan, appeared on the scene and killed the bear thus saving the life of Bakht Buland at a critical juncture. Bakht Buland was so much pleased with the courage of Raj Khan that he made him the Governor of Dongartal *taluka* then in a very unsettled condition. Sterndale has given a picturesque account of this incident, to whom it was related by a Muhammadan Fakir, a descendant of Raj Khan.²

Ram Singh, the Subadar of the Seoni tract, made his headquarters at Chhapara and built a fort there. Raj Khan, the newly appointed Governor of Dongartal, administered the *taluka* under the subordination of Ram Singh. Raj Khan built a fort at Dongartal and garrisoned it with a small force of 200 soldiers. He also improved the administration of the *taluka*. Later, he at the instigation of Bakht Buland, attacked and took possession of Pratapgarh and Songarhi in the Bhandar District in the name of the Raja of Deogarh.³ Raj Khan also became the founder member of the house of Diwans of Seoni.

The territories of Bakht Buland included the present districts of Chhindwara and Betul, and portions of Seoni, Balaghat, Nagpur and Bhandara Districts. Bakht Buland also founded a new township which gradually developed into the city of Nagpur. He used to go to visit the town occasionally.⁴

Bakht Buland, the converted Raja of Deogarh, was deposed in 1691 A.D. by Aurangzeb and his *gaddi* given to another Muslim Gond named Dindar. The latter, however, proved refractory and was expelled by a Mughal force in 1696 A.D. A brother of the Chanda raja now secured the throne of Deogarh by turning Muslim under the name of Neknam. Bakht Buland, however, soon seized an opportunity and returned to Deogarh and occupied it.⁵

In the closing years of Aurangzeb's reign, when the Mughal authority declined, even Deogarh was able to throw off the Mughal yoke, and was able to maintain an independent status for a brief period. Bakht Buland declared himself independent and plundered the Mughal territory on both sides of the Wardha. The Muslim historian of the Deccan, Kafi Khan, states that Aurangzeb on being informed of this conduct of Bakht Buland, ordered that his name, which had the meaning 'Of high fortune' (*Bakht Buland*) should be changed to 'Nigun Bakht' (Of mean fortune).⁶ The emperor also sent prince Bedar Bakht with a force to punish the Raja of Deogarh. Nothing, however, is known to have come to this undertaking.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 27.

2. *ibid.*, pp. 27-29; Sterndale, *Camp Life on the Satpura Range*, 1887, pp. 178-80.

3. *Chhindwara District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 29.

4. *ibid.*

5. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. IV, 1957, p. 314; J. N. Sarkar, *History of Aurangzeb*, Vol. V, pp. 408 ff.

6. Elliot and Dawson, *History of India as told by its own Historians* Vol. VII, p. 354.

Chand Sultan Shah

Bakht Buland died in the beginning of the 18th Century and was succeeded by his son Chand Sultan Shah. He transferred his capital to Nagpur and fortified it with a city wall three mile in length. He followed the policy of his predecessor and under him the wealth of the country increased very much. Chand Sultan was a favourite of the Syed brothers, who placed Muhammad Shah on the throne of Delhi and who conferred upon Chand Sultan pargana of Amner in Berar.¹

Burhan Shah and Akbar Shah

Chand Shah died in 1739 A.D., leaving behind the two legitimate sons—Burhan Shah and Akbar Shah, and an illegitimate one—Wali Shah. Soon after Chand Shah's death, Wali Shah usurped the throne of Deogarh. Thereupon Chand Shah's widow Ram Ratan Kaur sought the help of Raghuji Bhonsla of Nagpur in the interest of her two sons—Burhan Shah and Akbar Shah. Raghuji Bhonsla soon came forward and dethroning Wali Shah replaced the two sons of the throne. He then retired to Berar with a suitable reward for his assistance. In 1743, dissensions, however, broke out between the two brothers and Raghuji again intervened in the affairs of the state at the request of the elder brother, Burhan Shah. He drove out Akbar Shah from the dominions of Deogarh and Burhan Shah was declared the legitimate successor of the throne. But this time Raghuji had no desire to give back a second time to the weaker Gond the country he held within his grasp. So Burhan Shah, the Gond Raja, became practically a state pensioner and all real power passed to the Maratha Chief, Raghuji Bhonsla. With this event the history of the Deogarh kingdom may be said to have ended in 1743 A.D. The descendants of Burhan Shah, however, continued to occupy the position of state pensioners to a later period, but the Deogarh kingdom became practically a part of the Bhonsla kingdom.²

Raj Khan, the Governor of Dongartal, died in Songarhi in 1743 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Muhammad Khan. Notwithstanding the death of his legitimate sovereign and the usurpation of the Bhonslas, Muhammad Khan held Songarhi for three years in his name. Raghuji Bhonsla offered Muhammad Khan the tract of Seoni-Chhapara if he would give up Songarhi, as it was an important centre for the political and strategic point of view. Ram Singh Subedar of Seoni-Chhapara, had already died in 1742 A.D. Muhammad Khan, therefore, consented to this new arrangement and took over the administration of Seoni-Chhapara tract. His seat of administration, however, continued to be Chhapara. Marathas also gave him the title of Diwan.³

On one occasion, when he was at Nagpur, the Mandla Raja attacked and captured Chhapara. The Diwan, Muhammad Khan, soon advanced from

1. C.U. Wills, *op. cit.*, p. 163.

2. *ibid.* p. 169.

3. *ibid.* pp. 171-74; *Madhya Pradesh aur Berar Ka Itihas*, pp. 119-20.

4. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 30.

Nagpur with a large force and defeated the Mandla garrison in a severe action. Thanwar and Wainganga were then declared to be the boundaries between the Mandla and Seoni regions¹.

Muhammad Khan was succeeded by his eldest son, Majid Khan, as the Diwan in 1761 A.D. In 1774 A.D., Majid Khan died and was succeeded by his son Muhammad Amin Khan as Diwan, who removed his headquarters from Chhapara to Seoni and built the present residence of the Diwan's family. Upto this time Seoni was a village of no importance but now gradually developed into a town.

An early European traveller Mr. Leckie who passed through the District in 1790, on his way from Nagpur to Benaras, has left a vivid record of his impressions of this tract. He recorded that the tract near Seoni-Chhapara was well tilled and was famous for manufacture of iron. It was also recorded that the area from Dongartal to Seoni was held in jagir by Muhammad Amin Khan and that he did not respect the authority of the Raja of Nagpur².

After administering the Seoni-Chhapara tract for twenty four years with much credit to himself, Muhammad Amin Khan died in 1798 A.D. and was succeeded by his eldest son Muhammad Zaman Khan as Diwan³.

Chhapara, even after the removal of the headquarters of the Diwan to Seoni, remained a place of considerable importance at the close of the eighteenth century. It was then having a population of 40,000 persons, inhabited in about 9,000 houses.

Another European traveller passing through the District from Nagpur to Mirzapur in May, 1801 writes about the town of Chhapara that, "the town of Chhapara is large and populous. The Banganga passes through the middle of it, on the banks of the river, whose stream was now suspended by the dryness of the season, stands a large house, the abode of the younger branch of Jagirdar's family. The town contains few other buildings of masonry....."

Regarding the Jagirdar he writes, "this nobleman, the head of a numerous clan of Pathan, settled on his Jagir, maintains the princely state of a grand feudatory, and like an ancient baron in the feudal days of Europe, renders military service to the paramount"⁴.

In 1805 A.D., Raghuji Bhonsla, either from dissatisfaction at the state of affairs, or from the desire to obtain a large revenue to recoup him for the territories ceded to the British by the treaty of Deogaon (1803 A.D.), summoned

Zaman Khan to his court at Nagpur and appointed Bengaji Bhatonea in his stead as Governor of Seoni. This supercession caused much grief in Zaman Khan's mind and refused the rent-free villages offered to him by the Bhonsla. He then demanded the restoration of his hereditary property of Dengartal, but failed to obtain it from the Bhonsla of Nagpur¹.

In the year 1807, Bhonsla's troops which were in possession of Seoni intended to attack Hoshangabad, under the occupation of the Nawab of Bhopal.

In 1809 A.D., the administration of the Seoni tract was assigned to Khadag Bharati Gosain, a Bania, who had previously been money-lender to the Diwan's family. Raghuji II obtained a sum of rupees three lakhs from Khadag Bharti in lieu of this new assignment. Khadag Bharti got erected a *Garhi* (a small fort) in Seoni to garrison it with his forces. It was then situated in the *Garhi Muhalla* of the town. The relations between the families of the Diwan and the Gosain, however, remained strained during this period. It so happened that even the struggles occurred between the two parties. Thereupon Khadag Bharti Gosain got constructed a *Garhi* at Adegaon (near Lakhnadon) and shifted his residence there.²

Pindaris

In the year 1809 marauding Pindari bands, under Amir Khan, carried fire and sword into these territories. In July 1809, Amir Khan was stationed near Chauragarh in Narsimhapur district. He sent out large and mounted gangs in the surrounding areas and devastated and plundered the areas as far as Seoni-Chhapara³. The pindaris are stated to have sacked Seoni-District twice. During one raid the Pindaris descended upon Chhapara from the hills behind it during the progress of a fair, and they attacked it a second time while the Pathan garrison was present at Nagpur, attending the Court for the Diwali festival. It is said that this raid brought so much gold to the Pindaris that they did not care to take anything else.⁴

It is said that Khadag Bharati rackrented and oppressed the people so much that certain tracts of the region became entirely deserted. The revenue of the region is also said to have fallen from three and a quarter to less than two lakhs a year between 1811 and 1818 A.D. Khadag Bharati died in 1818 A.D. and was succeeded by Fagubhai Sataranjiwala as the Diwan of the tract. He also proved to be a bad administrator⁵.

During the last Anglo-Maratha war (1817-18 A.D.), Appa Sahib Bhonsla was defeated by the British forces at Sitabaldi (Nagpur). Ultimately a treaty

1. *ibid.*

2. *Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories*, pp. 76-77

3. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 30.

4. *Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories*, p. 212.

5. C.U. Auchison, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads* Vol. II, pp. 406, 509.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 31.

2. *ibid.*

3. Selections from the Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. II, p. 92.

4. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 31.

5. *Seoni Prachin Avam Arochita*, pp. 3-5.

was concluded between the two resulting in the cession of a great part of the Bhonsla territories to the British. This cession to the British included Mandla, Seoni, Betul and the Narmada valley.¹

In 1820 A.D., Seoni tract became a part of the Saugor-Nerbudda territories, administered by an Agent to the Governor-General. As stated earlier, the District of Seoni was formed in 1823 A. D. and a Deputy Commissioner was appointed here for the first time in 1843 A.D.

It may be mentioned that the British were much worried about the activities of the rebel chiefs and commandants of the forts. They, at one time, proposed that the northern parts of the Nagpur State, comprising Seoni and Chhapara be occupied by the Nawab of Bhopal.²

The above plan was, however, not executed and a Provisional Government was formed. Major O' Brien, Commanding at Chhapara, was assigned the charge of Seoni and Chhapara. Premsookh, who previously wielded authority in the District opposed the British occupation but after an encounter, he was captured and imprisoned in the fort of Hoshangabad. O' Brien suggested posting of 5 Companies of Native Infantry and 200 of the Rohilla Horse at Chhapara and an Indian officer's party of 40 men and 25 horses at Seoni.³

O' Brien appointed two *Amils*, namely, Mohammad Imam Khan and Khadag Bharti to assist him in administration.⁴ Another measure taken for administration of Seoni was the appointment of Makhan Singh Seth, a wealthy merchant of the place "to carry on the duties of the town under the general control of a Subedar".⁵

Seoni was then in a very disturbed condition, being raided by bands of armed Gonds who plundered the defenceless inhabitants and against whom the regular troops were powerless. Major O' Brien, the Officer-in-charge of Seoni District, took steps to improve this state of affairs and raised a force of police. He also made the landowners responsible for the security of the roads from the attacks of robbers and wild beasts. The Thakur of Dhuma and the Lodhi family of Lakhnadon enjoyed some concessions of land revenue for a long time in lieu of this service. During the same period the road from Nagpur to Jabalpur was haunted by bands of thugs, who carried on murders with secrecy and success. Major Sleeman relates an occurrence when an Indian gentleman travelling with his wife and child and servants was strangled with his whole party at Lakhnadon.

1. C.U. Aitchison, op. cit., Vol. II, pp. 477, 518 & 519.

2. Selections from the Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. IV, pp. V and 1-3.

3. *ibid.* pp. 7-9.

4. *ibid.* p. VI.

5. *ibid.* pp. 12-13.

In 1821, Najaf Khan, the nephew of the last Diwan, was granted the Gondi estate of 89 villages on quit-rent tenure by the British, and his son, Muhammed Ali Khan, continued to enjoy it later. At the same time, the British granted Kedarpur estate to another branch of the family.¹

In 1853, Raghuji III, the Bhonsla ruler of Nagpur, died childless, and Lord Dalhousie, in pursuance of his Doctrine of Lapse, usurped the Nagpur territories.

THE GREAT REVOLT OF 1857

During the Great Revolt of 1857, no organised rising took place in Seoni District. The District was scarcely disturbed excepting when Tatyia Tope passed through it in his usual forays. One such march of Tatyia in October, 1858 across this region to reach Nagpur was fraught with a grave danger of Maratha rising but it was too late.

The tranquility of the District was, however, disturbed by the revolt of the Lodhi landholder of Seoni who committed himself against the British Government.² Raja Sati Prasad caused the insurrection in Seoni and Bulhar. He was supported by the Chief of Sakhras.³ Even after the reoccupation of Cawnpore (Kanpur) by the British, the rebel leaders persisted in their hostile activities. Golab Singh of Seoni raised an entrenchment in his village and other leaders of the Rajput communities and Raja Bhau of Sikandra were equally refractory.⁴

The Lodhi landholder, who disturbed the tranquility of the District by his revolt, joined the rebels of Jabalpur and Narsimhapur. These rebels established themselves on some hills overlooking the Jabalpur road near Sukri, from which they made excursions to burn and plunder villages. In the November of 1857, Major Terran surprised the camp of the rebels and captured most of their leaders. At that time the garrison of Seoni consisted of only one Company of Madras Native Infantry, and Lieut. Thompson had asked for another Company at least.⁵ In December, 1857, a body of Nagpur irregular troops marched up from Kamptee and were placed at the disposal of the District Officer, Lieut. Thompson. The District Officer then marched through the District with these troops and cleared it of rebels. He then handed over the charge of the troops to Major Waddington in Mandla. The representative of the former Diwan family of Seoni, however, firmly supported the British officers in these critical days.⁶

In November, 1857, Lieut. Thompson, the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni moved out to Damoh towards Jabalpur to reassure the Thakurs, and some of them joined him with small contingents and afforded him good information. Had they rebelled the whole of their followers would have risen, and the rebellion would have

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, pp. 36-37.

2. S. B. Chaudhuri, *Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies*, p. 228.

3. *ibid.* p. 103.

4. *ibid.* p. 105.

5. Further Papers relative to the Mutinies in the East Indies, 1857, p. 107.

6. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 37; see also: *Madhya Pradesh Me Sanadhanta Andolan Ka Itihas*, pp. 80, 81, 83; W. C. Eklankar, *Narrative of Events Attending the Outbreak of Disturbances and the Restoration of Authority in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories in 1857-58*, pp. 2, 12, 32, 34.

rapidly spread south; but as it happened there was little or no rebellion in Seoni District, though some villages towards Mandla, Jabalpur and Narsimhapur were plundered by the rebels from those districts, and the customs line was attacked.

The Commissioner of the Jabalpur Division, W.C. Erskine, observed precautions in July, 1857 and ordered the troops at Narsimhapur, Betul, Seoni and Hoshangabad to stand fast, unless actually driven in; and to enable them to move against an enemy at a moment's notice. They were, moreover, all put on full *bhatta*.¹

In November, 1857, the rebels were gathering around Mandla in large numbers and had intentions to attack the town. The Deputy Commissioner of Mandla now began to feel the short-fall of ammunition and his retreat to Jabalpur was cut off. Moreover, some of the town's people began to show treachery. It was also reported that some rebels were about to go round to the south of the Narmada to cut off his retreat to Seoni. Under these circumstances Captain Waddington, the Deputy Commissioner of Mandla, considered it advisable to retreat on Seoni whilst he could, as he could do little or no good without troops, and was unnecessarily endangering his life. He therefore, on getting an opportunity, effected his escape to Seoni. The rebels, however never entered the town of Mandla after his retreat to Seoni.²

The Deputy Commissioners of Seoni and Mandla came to Damoh on the 19th of December, 1857, and soon established police posts between the two districts to check the Mandla rebels. On the 20th December a news was received that Bahadur Singh, a rebel leader, was hiding in the Jungles of the Jabalpur district, to the east of Damoh. Therefore Captain Waddington took 50 of the irregular infantry, his own police, and 15 soldiers of the 52nd faithfuls, and started on the 21st to catch Bahadur Singh and re-occupy Kedarpur, a Seoni Police post, which had been temporarily lost.³

The attempt to catch Bahadur Singh failed, but he was driven further eastward, and most of his followers deserted him. On the 25th the Kedarpur Police post was re-occupied and the detachment halted there till the arrival of the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni with the remainder of the troops.

On the 27th December Captain Waddington made another attack on the rebels, but they fled away without making any attempt to resist the British force. Thereupon the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni made over the whole of the Grenadier Company of the Nagpur Irregular Infantry to Captain Waddington to enable him to clear the banks of the Narmada of the rebels in the Seoni, Jabalpur and Mandla districts, and to return to Mandla, which, with the exceptions of the towns of Mandla and Mhow, was entirely in the hands of the rebels.⁴

1. W. C. Erskine, op. cit., p. 32; Parliamentary Papers Regarding Mutinies in India, Further Papers, No. 9, pp. 571, 591, 602, 609.

2. W. C. Erskine, op. cit., p. 12.

3. *ibid.* p. 32.

4. Parliamentary Papers Regarding Mutinies in India, Further Papers, No. 9, p. 614.

5. *ibid.* p. 32, W. C. Erskine, op. cit., p. 34.

Freedom Movement

In the Nagpur Session of 1920 of the Indian National Congress, a few individuals from Seoni District attended it and participated in its discussions. Immediately after the Nagpur Session, Mahatma Gandhi started the 'Non-co-operation Movement' in the country. At this time, the District Branch of the Congress started functioning in an organised manner. Soon the District and City Congress Committees were constituted and the movement of mass consciousness began in the district with the inspiring lecture of Mahatma Bhagwandin at Seoni.

Then began the nationalist activities in the District under the able leadership of Prabhakar Dhundiraj Jatar and Pandit Durgashankar Mehta. Both these persons abandoned their legal practice and started participating vigorously in the national movement. Some of the persons even resigned from the Government service and began to take part in the political activities. Several students abstained themselves from attending the schools aided by the State Government. Therefore, the citizens of the town of Seoni started a national school in which Sarva Shri Murlidhar Shukla, Balajimukund Tole, Girijanandam Sharma and Dhannalal Diwakar were taking classes. Along with this school, a Rashtriya Panchayat and a Khadi Bhandar were also started in the town. Charkha soon became popular in several households and many persons took a vow to wear *khadi* in future. Shukrawari Chowk (now called Gandhi Chowk) soon became a common place where political workers and leaders used to deliver lectures putting forth the national views. In the beginning of these lectures flag song was sung and often the foreign clothes were put to fire in the end of the programme. Hand-spun yarn and hand-woven cloth was now sold at several shops of the town. Thus the non-co-operation movement got momentum in the District and the boycott of foreign goods became popular everywhere. The British Government, therefore, adopted repressive measures and some people of the District were given rigorous imprisonment for various terms.

Immediately after the Nagpur Session of 1921, Gandhiji started from Nagpur and came to Jabalpur via Seoni. The main aim of his tour was to propagate the idea of Non-co-operation Movement among the masses and to collect money for Tilak-Swarajya-Fund. On his way to Jabalpur from Nagpur, he stayed at Seoni for some time and delivered a lecture in the public meeting.

Flag Satyagraha

In March, 1923 A.D., Flag Satyagraha was started in the Province. A long procession of the National Flag was arranged in Seoni under the leadership of Pandit Sunderlal. The police snatched the flags from the hands of the Satyagrahis and legal action was taken against them.

1. Seoni - Prachi Anam Amashin, pp. 13-14.

2. Madhya Pradesh Aur Gandhiji, p. 17, Sampurna Gandhi Vangamaya, Vol. XX, p. 486.

On the 13th April, 1923, began the Flag Satyagraha in Nagpur in which Satyagrahis from different places reached there to participate in it. P.D. Jatar and Durga Shankar Mehta suspended their legal practice to participate in the Flag Satyagraha. They together with Murlidhar Shukla and Shri Abdul Jabbar, *Malgujar* of Umaria, held a meeting at Seoni and exhorted the audience to participate in the Satyagraha. They enlisted 52 volunteers, and proceeded to Nagpur along with them. On their return they tried to despatch another batch of Satyagrahis when they were arrested on 12th June 1923. While Durga Shankar Mehta, Abdul Jabbar and Murlidhar Shukla were sentenced to 12 months rigorous imprisonment, P.D. Jatar was sentenced for 6 months and all of them were also fined. Balaji Mukund Tole was also among the Satyagrahis. Pandit Narayan Prasad Sharma discontinued his business for sometime and helped the Satyagrahis a lot.

Salt Satyagraha

In the year 1930, Mahatma Gandhi started a new movement in the country which was called 'Salt Satyagraha'. In Seoni District too some persons broke the law and prepared indigenous salt². After the Salt Satyagraha began the Forest Satyagraha which was pursued vigorously in the district, as it is a densely forested region. The Forest Satyagraha at Turia is a land-mark in the history of freedom movement of the District. The incident is typical of the historical manner in which the police behaved with the Satyagrahis. One Muka Luhar and his followers announced that they would break the forest laws by cutting grass at a place called Khawasa (28 miles from Seoni) on 9th October 1930. The Police Inspector, with about a dozen armed constables, rushed to the site accompanied by a range officer. The Deputy Commissioner of Seoni had sent a chit to the Inspector in great annoyance saying, "I had thought that Turia had been taught a lesson". The Inspector took the hint and moved through the forest but could not come across the party of Satyagrahis and, therefore, returned to the camp. At that time nearly 400 villagers and Adivasis proceeded towards the camp as they learnt that their leader, Muka Luhar, is under arrest of the police. Some Satyagrahis in the crowd had with them sickles with which grass was to be cut, but they were certainly non-violent and had no intention to attack the police party. But the constables of the party were only waiting for the crowd advancing towards them, they became panicky and opened fire killing three women and one man and injuring about 30 others.³ Those who became martyrs on account of the police firing were Rano Bai, Debo Bai (Demo Bai), Mudde Bai (Pruddle Bai) and Birju Bhoi.⁴ After the attainment

of Independence, the alive Satyagrahis were honoured and the dead were paid homage by the people of the neighbouring villages on 26th January 1950.¹

Not contented with taking four innocent lives, Seiman the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni, ordered criminal prosecution of 18 villagers of Turia. Two advocates of the Seoni bar, P.D. Jatar and N.N. Sil, both Congressmen, decided to defend the accused in order to expose the tyrannical behaviour of the authorities. When Sil was inspecting the record of the case he discovered a closed envelop containing the letter of Seiman addressed to the Reserve Inspector ordering him to teach a lesson to the villagers of Turia. Evidently, Inspector Sadruddin had preserved the letter for his own safety. This discovery produced a sensation in the court. On hearing what had happened, Seiman flew into a rage and rushed into the courtroom to discover how his letter had come to be placed on the record of the case. Undaunted by the Deputy Commissioner's presence the counsels for defence immediately applied to the court for a copy of the letter. The magistrate took the counsels to his chamber and offered to release all the accused on bail if they agreed not to press for a copy of Seiman's letter. The counsels declined the offer and applied to the High Court to transfer the case from Seoni. The High Court did not transfer the case but the government did transfer Seiman from Seoni.² In this very jail the thumb impression of Ravi Shankar Shukla were forcibly affixed on a paper during this period. This was done under orders of Seiman, the Deputy Commissioner.

During the Civil Disobedience Movement of the 1930, Seoni Jail was an important centre where many prominent political leaders were kept in confinement for varying terms. The most important among them were Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Sharat Chandra Bose, Ravi Shankar Shukla, Seth Govind Das, Kaka Kalelkar, Dwarka Prasad Mishra, H.V. Kamath, Kashji Prasad Pandey, etc. When other political prisoners got the news that Subhash Chandra Bose had been brought to the Seoni Jail they grew excited. Nityendra Nath Sil, one of the fellow prisoners in the Seoni Jail had been college-mate of Subhash Chandra Bose in Calcutta. The two Bose brothers were kept separated from other political prisoners. While other political prisoners were debating as to how to fulfil the ardent desire to meet Subhash Chandra Bose, he himself took the initiative to bring some of them to his barrack. After that there were innumerable meetings of these political prisoners with the two Bose brothers. Nityendra Nath Sil, being resident of Seoni, arranged for Subhash's secret correspondence with some of his confidants in Bengal. When, later on Subhash Chandra Bose was transferred from Seoni to Bhowali in the interest of his health, Sil not only kept in touch with him but also managed to meet him surreptitiously.³

1. A Compilation of Important Political Trials in C. P. and Berar, p. 1.
2. *Seoni-Prachin Avam Arvachin*, pp. 14-15.
3. *The History of Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh*, pp. 389-90; *Seoni-Prachin Avam Arvachin*, pp. 15-16; *Madhya Pradesh Aur Gandhiji*, p. 71.
4. *The History of Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh*, p. 498; *Seoni-Prachin Avam Arvachin*, p. 16.

1. *Seoni-Prachin Avam Arvachin*, p. 16.
2. D. P. Mishra, *Living An Era*, Vol. I, p. 166.
3. *ibid*, Vol I, pp. 209-11. *Madhya Pradesh, Aur Gandhiji*, p. 72.
Seoni-Prachin Avam Arvachin, p. 16.

SEONI

Gandhiji's Visit

During his historical Harijan Tour of 1933, Gandhiji arrived at Seoni on 28th November at 8-00 pm. Here he was accorded a warm welcome by the people of the town and the adjoining villages. He was then taken in a procession through the main streets of the town where multitudes welcomed him and had his *darshan*. Gandhiji rested at night in the house of Shri Durgashankar Mehta. Next day he addressed a public meeting and had talks with the *shastris* regarding *Mandir Pravesh Bill* (Temple-Entry-Bill). After finishing his morning meals, he started for Chhindwara.¹

In 1937, the General Elections were held in the Province and the Congress party formed the first popular ministry headed by Dr. N.B. Khare as Prime Minister. The ministry then consisted of six ministers besides the Prime Minister. In 1939, the Second World War broke out and the British Government, without consulting the Indian Legislature, despatched Indian armies to Egypt, Aden and Singapore for the defence of the Empire. Finally, the Viceroy in Delhi declared India a belligerent country on the side of the Allies. In view of this attitude of the British Government, the Congress Ministry resigned and the Parliamentary form of Government, which came into being for the first time, came to an end in this province.²

Soon after Mahatma Gandhi started the movement of individual Satyagraha in the country. Mr. P. D. Jatar, the President of Seoni District Congress Committee, conducted the Individual Satyagraha in the District and was arrested by the police. Then came forward his wife, Shrimati Radha Bai, and his two sons, Manohar Rao and Padmakar Rao, for Individual Satyagraha. Besides these persons, some other individuals also conducted this Satyagraha and were, therefore, put in confinement.³

In 1942, a special session of the All India Congress Committee was held at Bombay in which a resolution was passed to start 'Quit India Movement' all over the country. The nation had been told to be prepared to face a fight to finish. But the instruments of repression struck suddenly in the dark. During the small hours of the morning of the 9th August, 1942, all the top leaders of the Congress were arrested in Bombay, while they slept, and taken to Poona (Pune) by a special train. The fight had begun, precipitated by this rash and provocative act of the British Government.

Quit India Struggle

In Seoni, the movement had a beginning with the refusal of the students from attending their schools and colleges. On 19th August, a large crowd of students, led by Anantram Dube, assembled in front of the Mission High School, under the banner of 'Students Federation'. The gathering prohibited students from atten-

ding their classes. Then a procession of students started which passed by the Municipal High School building raising slogans. In a short time this procession swelled to a huge gathering, but came to an end near the *Math* on account of restrictions imposed by the police.

Next day a number of political workers, including Anantram Dube, Umashankar Dube, Narayan Prasad Mishra, Kunjbharilal Khare, Abhay Kumar Jain, Ravindranath Bhargav, Keshwa Karve, A. Rahman Faruqi, Kamal Chand Azad, Padmakar Jatar, Raj Prasad Pathak and Ambika Prasad Sharma, were arrested and put behind the bars. The police also confiscated the records of the local Congress office and every repressive measure was adopted to crush the Movement.¹ "Thus the 1942 'Quit-India Movement' may well be described as a spontaneous, voluntary, mass movement that sprang from the National urge for freedom. In that sense it was a people's movement."²

Ultimately on 15th August, 1947, India gained Independence. In former Madhya Pradesh, Free India's first Governor of the Province, Mangaldas Pakwasa, took the oath of his office to the chanting of solemn hymns. Next morning the Chief Minister of the Province, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, hoisted the national flag at the foot of the historic fort of Sitabaldi. The present Seoni District then formed a sub-division of Chhindwara District. In November, 1956, the new State of Madhya Pradesh was constituted and Seoni was declared a district since 1st October 1956.

1. *Seoni—Prachin Avam Arvachin*, pp. 17-18.

2. *The History of Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh*, p. 471.

1. *Madhya Pradesh Aur Gandhiji*, p. 33.

2. *The History of Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh*, pp. 437, 444.

3. *Seoni—Prachin Avam Arvachin*, p. 17.

CHAPTER III PEOPLE

Population

The population of the District according to 1971 census was 6,68,352 (3,36,465 males and 3,31,887 females). Containing 1.60 per cent population of the State, the District ranks 31st in order in this respect. The area of the district is 8,752 square kilometer being 1.98 per cent of the State's area. The District consists of two tahsils, Seoni and Lakhnadon. The revised tahsil-wise break-up of area and population published in 1974 has been tabulated below :

Table III—1
Area and Population, 1971

Sl. No.	Tahsil	Area (Sq.Km)	Population
1	Lakhnadon	3,084.1	2,55,815
2	Seoni	3,522.8	4,12,537

Source:—1971 Census Report.

Obviously, the remaining area (2,145.1 Sq. Km.) is either covered under forest (2,100.8 Sq. Km.) or is the difference (44.3 Sq.Km.) between the two area figures furnished by the Surveyor General of India and the State Survey Department. This difference is of the order of 0.44 per cent only.

When these figures are compared with that of 1961 census, it appears that there is minor change as regards the area of Seoni tahsil only (3,517 Sq. km. in 1961) on account of transfer of a few villages. The increase in population of the district is of course significant. It was only 5,23,741 in 1961.

Population Variation during 1891-1971

First census in the District took place in 1866; followed by the enumeration of 1871, which was the first of the decennial censuses. However, authentic figures of these enumerations are not available.

In 1881, the population was about 3,36,000 and disclosed an increase of more than 17 per cent on that of 1872. In 1891, the population was 3,71,000, giving an increase of 10 per cent on 1881. The natural increase was only 7 per cent and the District was considered to have gained by immigration.

In 1901, the area and population of the District were 3,206 square miles and 3,27,709 persons respectively, Seoni being the fourteenth District of the Central Provinces excluding Berar in point of area and twelfth in population. The Seoni Tahsil had a slightly greater area (1,648 square miles) than Lakhnadon, (1,558 square miles) the only two tahsils of the District with a considerable population variation (1,92,364 and 1,35,345² in 1901, respectively). Upto 1873, the District had a third tahsil, with headquarters at Katangi, but in that year the bulk of this tahsil was transferred to Balaghat and the remainder included in Seoni.

There was a decrease of about 43,000 persons or nearly 12 per cent in 1901 on the population of 1891, on account of epidemics (13,000), emigration to Assam (6,500) and the deficient reporting of deaths in the famine years.

1. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961,
2. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 40.

But this deficiency was met with in the decade 1901-11 when there has been an abnormal rate of natural increase. In this decade, the causes which had decimated the population in the preceding decade were not operative and the Census Report of 1911 records only deaths due to plague epidemic. Though the year 1903, 1906, 1907 and 1910 are described as exceptionally unhealthy years, "they seem to have had little effect upon the reproductive powers of the population who largely consist of aboriginal tribes or low Hindu castes of mixed race".

The most important single factor adversely affecting the growth of population during the decade 1911-21 was the appearance in September, 1918 of the fatal influenza epidemic which continued to decimate the population in 1919 also. The decrease of about 12 per cent in the population was also partly due to the return of migrant labour for railway construction. In the decade 1921-31, except in the year 1921 when cholera took a toll of 5,224 lives, the general health was reported to be good. In 1941 Census, Second World War cut down tabulation to the minimum, so that nothing is on record to help in probing the probable causes of the low growth of the District during 1931-41. Anyway, the growth of the District during the two decades 1931-51 was rather slow. The high growth rate during 1951-61 is attributed to reduced mortality owing, among other causes, to extension of medical facilities to ever increasing number of persons and the elimination of epidemics like plague and cholera, malaria etc. The rural and urban growth rate during this decade remained practically equal, whereas the growth rate of Lakhnadon tahsil was higher than that of Seoni Tahsil.

During the 60 years, 1901-61, the population of the District increased by 59.5 per cent. The growth was slower—19.9 per cent during the first half of this period, that is during 1901-31, but was faster—33.0 per cent during the later half.

The decennial population growth rate during the decade 1961-71 was 27.61 the highest so far. The rural rate of growth was 26.61, while the urban rate was 43.94.

The table inset below gives the variation in population of the District for the decades, starting from the Census of 1881.

Table III-2
Variation in Population (1881-1971)

Decade	Percentage Variation	
1881-91	+	10.4
1891-1901	—	11.6
1901-11	+	20.7
1911-21	—	11.9
1921-31	+	12.9
1931-41	+	7.5
1941-51	+	2.5
1951-61	+	20.7
1961-71	+	27.6

Source: Census Hand Books, 1961, 1971.

1. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. xli.
2. *ibid.* P. XLII.

Scheduled Tribes

The Scheduled Tribes contribute nearly two-fifths to the population of the District. The entirely rural, northern Lakhnadon has more than half of its population belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

In all 32 Scheduled Tribes have been enumerated in the year 1971 in the District having population of 2,50,577. But the really numerous are only two i.e., Gond and Pardhan and synonymous tribes which together make more than 98 per cent of the total Scheduled Tribal population. Gonds alone account for nine-tenths of the Scheduled Tribal population of the District.

Bharia-Bhumia etc., Halba or Halbi and Baiga are other less numerically important tribes.

To the extent of 99 per cent of their population, unlike Scheduled Castes the Scheduled Tribes are concentrated in rural areas. They are better off agriculturally, depending on agriculture to the extent of 95 per cent of their working force.¹

Gonds consider *Bada Deo* (great god), as the name suggests, to be their chief deity. Apart from it they worship, *Dharti Mata* (the mother earth), *Hola rai Dulha Deo* (bridegroom god), *Chhota Deo*, *Sakrai* and *Nag Deo*, etc. *Hola rai* is supposed to protect and increase the cattle wealth. On *Diwali* he is revered specially². Their godlings are generally made of stone, wood or metal without any fixed size. Animal sacrifice, preferably of a hen or goat, etc. is a necessary accompaniment of *Baba Deo* worship³.

Scheduled Castes

The Scheduled Caste population of the District in 1971 was 45,291. Mahar or Mehra is the most numerous Scheduled Caste in the District. Chamar and synonymous castes make the second largest Scheduled Caste. Basor and synonymous castes are third in order. These three Scheduled Castes make more than 90 per cent of the Scheduled caste population of the District.

Amongst the less numerous castes are Bhangi or Mehtar, Kori and Khatik. All Scheduled Castes in the District belong to the Hindu religion. They principally depend on agriculture, which absorbs nearly 70 per cent of their workers. 'Household industry' mainly the traditional caste based industries-claims the second, and 'other services', the third in participation size, the later having only half as many workers as are in household industry⁴.

Urban and Rural Areas

Since 1866, there have been frequent changes in the constitution of the rural areas of the District, especially in 1873, 1888, 1889, 1893 and 1894,⁵ when large number of villages were inter-transferred with the surrounding districts

According to Census 1901, the District had one town Seoni, and 1,389 inhabited villages. At the time of writing the old Gazetteer of 1907, the number of villages was 1,751. This included 197 *ryotwari* villages out of which the Seoni tahsil contained 50 and Lakhnadon 147. In this year the population of Seoni proper was 11,864 or 3½ per cent of the District. Besides it, only Chhapara (3,884) and Lakhnadon (2,148) had more than 2,000 persons, while 10 villages had a population of 1,000 or more. More than half the villages then had a population of less than 200 persons.

Seoni was a small town in 1951 having a population of 25,024. The entire rural population of the District in this year was 4,09,037.

According to 1971 Census, Seoni is preponderantly a District of 'small' and 'very small' villages, the two classes together accounting for nearly 5 per cent of all the 1,595 inhabited villages.

The percentage of urban to total population rose from 5.78 in 1961 to 6.52 in 1971. The rural and urban population in the year 1971 were 6,24,776 and 43,576.

The urban area till 1961 was only Seoni proper. Its growth rate increased from 20.98 of 1951-61 decade to 43.94 of 1961-71 decade. Having 18,412 females and 19,984 males according to Census 1971, it is the only Municipal town in the District. This population (38,396) resides in an area of 8.5 sq. km. However, in this year, Dungaria Chhapara (NM) has been included in the urban area. It has a population of 5,180 persons (2,720 males, 2,460 females) residing in an area of 5.5 sq. km.

Sex-ratio

In Seoni district as a whole, sex-ratio, or the number of females per 1,000 males was 1,011 in 1951 and 1,006 in 1961. It varied slightly among the tahsils. Thus, while the sex-ratio in Lakhnadon was 993, it was 1,014 in Seoni tahsil in 1961.

For rural areas of Seoni district, the sex-ratio was 1,011 while in Seoni proper it was 926 in that year. The greater female deficiency in urban areas is not difficult to understand. It arises mainly by migration of people who go there in search of employment.

The sex-ratio which was 1,069 in 1901 came down to 986 in 1971. The urban sex-ratio was much less. It was only 919 in this year. However the rural sex-ratio was 991, showing a balanced male-female proportion.

Density

The total density of population was 102 persons per square mile in 1901. Seoni was more thickly populated than Lakhnadon, the respective figures of density being 117 and 87 persons, respectively in 1901. At that time the Barghat

1. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, pp. LVII-LVII.
2. Prayag Datta Shukla, *Madhya Pradesh ki Adi Jatiyan*, p. 36.
3. *Seoni Prachin Avam Arvachin*, p. 58.
4. Seoni District Census Hand Book, pp. LIV-LVI.
5. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 41.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 40

Station house area was the most populous tract of the district with 171 persons to the square mile, excluding Government forest. Next to this came Seoni and Keolari, while the Ghansor and Lakhnadon Station-house areas were the most sparsely populated. There was a gradual increase in density in 1921, 1931 and 1941 when it was 108, 122 and 131, respectively.¹ It rose a little to 135 in 1951.

It further stepped up in 1961 when it was 156 persons per square mile, the rural density being 147 and urban 9,258.

The density of entirely rural tahsil Lakhnadon was 162 whereas Seoni tahsil had a total density of 244 and rural density of 222.

As compared to 60 in 1961, according to 1971 Census, the total density of the district was 76 per square kilometre in 1971. The rural density was 72 and the urban 3,128 persons per sq. km. in this year.

Migration

In 1901, the proportion of the inhabitants returned as born in the district was only 82 per cent. It might be affected by the transfers of territory which had taken place in second half of the 19th century. A considerable amount of migration to and fro appears to take place between Seoni and Mandla, Balaghat and Chhindwara, and smaller inter-change of population with Jabalpur and Nagpur.²

About 6,500 persons emigrated to Assam during 1891-1900 on account of epidemics. There was a second wave of migration of considerable magnitude from Seoni during the second World War, mostly to the neighbouring district Jabalpur for occupational purposes, because with the setting up of Ordinance Factories at Khamaria and Murwara, these places offered employment to a very large number of persons.³

Displaced Persons

After the partition of India, about 300 persons from Sind came and settled here in the district. In Seoni town, they reside in the Sirdhi Colony. In the rural areas too, their main profession is business.⁴ In 1961, their number rose to 1,258 in the whole district.

Language

As many as 53 speeches were returned as mother tongues in 1961 in the district. 77.1 per cent or more than three-fourths of the population spoke only one speech, viz., Hindi as mother-tongue.

Gondi speech claimed the second highest proportion (10.6 per cent) and to this was added 2.6 per cent speakers of Parisi/(Dhurwa)Gondi, which is, in fact, a sub-dialect of Gondi. Thus, Gondi was actually spoken by 13.2 per cent of the population.

Speakers of Marathi, the third most widely spoken mother-tongue, contributed 3.4 per cent. Urdu was spoken as mother-tongue by 2.8 per cent and Parvati by 2.2 per cent. These five languages together accounted for more than 90 per cent of the population, so that the remaining 48 speeches together spoken by less than 1 per cent of the population.

Of these Muria (2,994 speakers) and Sindhi (1,258 speakers) were slightly more widely spoken. Banjari, Bengali, Gujarati, Halbi, Kannada, Punjabi, and Telugu claimed speakers between 100 and 1000. Thus 39 speeches returned from the district had less than 100 speakers each.

The Hindi returned as mother-tongue is akin to the Bundeli dialect of Hindi. This language is also the subsidiary language of a vast number of tribal people. These constitute 7.8 per cent of the total population so that at least 84.9 per cent of the population speak Hindi either as a mother-tongue or a subsidiary speech.¹

The 1961 Census revealed that at least 62.1 per cent of Gondis had abandoned their tribal speech and adopted principally Hindi. Another significant observation was that speakers of Marathi were concentrated almost entirely in the rural areas of Seoni tahsil as it is situated adjoining Maharashtra.

When compared with 1951 Census figures, it is seen that while Hindi and Marathi lost their speakers, Gondi and Urdu gained, the former slightly but the latter by more than double i.e., the proportion of Urdu speakers which was only 0.6 per cent in 1951, rose to 1.9 per cent in 1961.

Bundeli, which is the form of Hindi differs from it in some points of inflection. In Bundeli the long *a* of the terminations of substantives and adjectives is turned into *o* as *dano* for *daha*; *Chhaparo palle baro gaon hato*, for *Ghhapra Pahlie Bara Gaon tha* (*Chhapara* was formerly a big village).

The Marathi spoken in the south of the district is akin to the language of Nagpur. In this form the long vowels are usually shortened and the dative is formed in *s* as *bapas-to the father*.²

Religion

Hindus, Jains, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs form the main religious groups residing in the district. According to 1951 Census their number was 3,92,890; 1,214; 14,462, 173 and about 100, respectively.³ These numbers increased to 4,93,459; 2,618; 23,853; 567 and 223 respectively in 1961. Apart from them 2,986 neo-Budhists were also reported to be residing, all except one, in rural areas, mostly of the Seoni tahsil.

1. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. LI.

2. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, pp. 44-45.

3. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1951, p. 51.

4. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. 67.

1. Pocket Compendium of District Statistics, Seoni, 1963, p. 15.

2. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, pp. 42-43.

3. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. XLII.

4. Seoni-Prachin Avam Arvachin, p. 69.

Hindus formed 94 per cent of the district's total population in 1961. They were even more numerous in rural areas, i.e., 95.4 per cent of the total rural population. Most of them are Vaishnavas, Shaivas and Shaktas. Some of them are Arya Samajists as well.

The fall in the proportion of Hindus since 1951, though small, is noticeable. In 1951, they formed 96.1 per cent of the district's rural population, while in 1961, they made 95.4 per cent.

Muslims formed 4.6 per cent of the district population and were the second largest religious group. They improved their proportion to 19.7 per cent of the total population in urban areas.

The Muslims who constituted 3.5 per cent of the district's rural population in 1951 improved their proportion to 3.6 per cent in 1961.

Budhists who were negligible in numbers in 1951, added upto 0.6 per cent of the rural population in 1961. However, the proportion of Jains in the rural population remained unchanged during this decade. The figures bring out that the fall in proportion of Hindus by 0.7 per cent is shared by Budhists and by Muslims to the extent of 0.6 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.

The following table gives the religious population of the District according to Census 1971.

Table No. III-3

Religion, 1971

S. No.	Religion	Population	Percentage
1.	Hindu	629,316	94.18
2.	Muslim	32,691	4.89
3.	Christian	723	0.11
4.	Sikhs	170	0.03
5.	Budhists	2,195	0.33
6.	Jains	3,236	0.48
7.	Others	19	Neg.
8.	Religion not stated	2	Neg.
District Total		668,352	100.00

Source: Census, 1971.

Religious Beliefs, Manners and Customs

Every village has a number of local deities belonging to different classes to whom they pay reverence. The principal of these is **Devi**, also known as **Kherasa** or the earth-goddess, the old indigenous deity having probably in the

case been transformed into an incarnation of the leading Hindu goddess. She is represented by an image or simply a stone placed on a platform by the side of which a flag is planted, and is worshipped principally at the two days, festivals called **Nao Durga** or **Navratri** in the spring and autumn. Tuesday is the day specially set apart for her worship. As elsewhere, grain is sown on these occasions in pots and allowed to sprout for 9 days as a sort of forecast of the spring and autumn crops. If an epidemic of small-pox threatens, the people proceed to **Devi's** shrine and cook their food there.

Hardaul Lala, a deified Rajput prince, is a common village godling. His shrine should have a trident and a flag. He is worshipped at marriages and, also when epidemic diseases break out among the cattle. Friday is his special day.

The vermilion painted figure raised on a slab, which represents **Hanuman** is found in every village.

Hulera Deo is a Gond deity, but Ponwars and others also worship him.

Matia is a mischievous godling who is revered by the lower castes. He blows up the dust-storms and worries the people in other ways. When a feast is held, a cake is prepared and a number of hairs are mixed in the dough. This is set apart for **Matia** to keep him quiet and prevent from interfering with the festival.

Gosains bury their dead in the **Samadhi** in **Asan Mudra**,³ but children are buried as usual.

Superstitions

The grosser and more criminal forms are most certainly dying out. Witchcraft and sorcery do not here exercise the same terrible influence on the lives of the people which they are still potent to effect in Chhattisgarh. Spread of education has something to say to this feature of improvement among the people. The ordinary magical beliefs are found in existence but are probably being gradually discarded by the educated classes.

In order to bring rain people perform **homa** on large scale. The **Gond** have a dance, holding sticks and beating them against each other.

The **Bhumka** or priest of the village gods performs various ceremonies to protect the villages from epidemics, ghosts, tigers and cattle diseases.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 48.*
2. *Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 47.*
3. *Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 48.*
4. *Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 48.*

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance

The traditional joint family system prevails in the area and the disposal of the family property is effected within the frame-work of the age-old Hindu and Muslim Personal Laws, as the case may be. The disputes are generally referred to the caste panchayats wherever such panchayats are still strong enough to exercise their right. These panchayats insist on equal share to all the brothers inheriting the family property. Their sisters still do not inherit. Most of them are unaware of their rights, only a few rich men resort to the will.

MARRIAGE AND MORALS

Bigamy

Though monogamy is the rule, the proportion of married females was larger than the proportion of married males by 0.6 per cent in 1961. The difference though small is yet significant. It, therefore, appears that bigamy on small scale, is practised in the district, especially in the rural areas.¹

Polygamy

The practice of polygamy is in vogue in Muslims and in Gonds only, but with the advancement of time, its recurrence is diminishing.

Polyandry

It is not at all in practice in the District in any caste or tribe.

Re-marriage

In Gonds and Ahirs, a practice called *Pat Lagana* (re-marriage) is in vogue.²

Civil Marriages

Civil marriages are not at all in vogue. This fact is ascertained from the report of the Collector and Marriage Officer, Seoni. During the two decades 1951-71, only one case was registered under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 in the year 1959-70 and in this case the marriage was solemnized. Till the year 1973-74 thereafter, no case was registered under this Act.

Traditional Restrictions on marriage Alliances

In Brahmans, as else where, *Sagotra* marriage, divorce and widow marriage are not permissible. *Kanyakubjas* are highest in number in the District among the Brahmans. Their ancestors came from Uttar Pradesh to reside here

permanently. Next in order are *Saryupariya* and *Sanadya*. They all profess *Sanatan Dharma* and observe all the sixteen *sanskaras* strictly in accordance with Vedic rituals. Marriage is of course, an important *sanskar*.¹ All other Hindus, high and low in caste structure, try to follow the same rituals as far as possible.

In Jains too, widow marriage and *Sagotra* marriage are not permitted. While deciding a marriage, much alike Hindus, they match the *gotras* of not only the bride and bridegroom but their maternal uncles as well. Only *Muhurt* is decided with the help of a Brahman Jyotishi, and all other religious rituals are to be performed by their own priest. Their marriage ceremony also has got much in common with the Hindu customs.²

In Gonds too, *Sagotra* marriages are restricted, but marriage with maternal uncle's son is common.³ Cross-cousin marriage is the preferential form of marriage.

The marriage ceremony follows the customary ritual of the northern districts. Before the betrothal the boy's father goes to the girl's house and makes her a present of a *bakli* or brass dish containing a few rupees, and some betel leaf and fruit. This is called *hatona* and is a customary gift among all except the highest castes.

Except among the Parwar Banias and the scheduled castes like Katias and Mehras, the women do not accompany the marriage procession and stay at home.⁴ Well-to-do persons hire dancing girls to perform at their weddings.

When the wedding procession starts back home, turmeric is sprinkled over the bride and bridegroom before their departure.

In Gonds, the rites and ceremonials are few and simpler in the backward tracts. They relate to the conventional mode of asking for the hand of the bride, betrothal, payment of bride-price, receiving the bride's party at the village of the bridegroom, certain preliminaries before the marriage, the marriage proper and the post-marriage magic-religious performances.⁵

In some of them, as in the past, the bridegroom's party goes to fetch the girl and take her back to his house, where the ceremony is performed. When this is about to take place the bride hides in some other house and the bridegroom's brother-in-law searches for her, while the women of the party sing and the bride shouts out 'coo'.

1. *ibid.* p. 63.

2. *ibid.* p. 65.

3. *ibid.* p. 58.

4. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 68.

5. M. P. Buradkar, *Social Organisation of the Gonds in the C.P.& Berar* pp. 40-41

1. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. C.

2. *Seoni Prachin Avam Arvachin*, p. 59.

SEONI

As she enters the bridegroom's house, two spears are planted before the door to make an arch, and the bridegroom pushes her through these from behind the girl hanging back. On the day after the wedding the bride and bridegroom throw mud at each other and roll one another about in the mud for sport.¹ The bride remains in her father-in-law's house for 9 days.

Among the Agarwals, when the wedding procession is about to start the potter brings his donkey and the bridegroom touches it with his foot in place of riding on it as the custom formerly was. Some say that this is intended as a sort of humiliation to the bridegroom, because he is setting out to do a foolish thing, while others hold the custom to be in honour of Sitala, the goddess small-pox who rides on a donkey.²

In Sindhis, the bridal side as a whole goes to the bridegroom's town and performs the rituals. The next day of morning they return home.³

In Muslims, as elsewhere, marriage ritua is performed by a *Kazi*, who declares a marriage as accomplished only after the approval of the bride and the bridegroom. He also fixed *Mehar* (alimony) on this auspicious occasion on which the bride has the sole right.⁴

Dowry System

This age old system is still rampant in the upper classes. Only the ways and forms of giving and taking it are changing so as to avoid legal complication. The police also does not seem to be particular about the strict application of the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, as the offence is not cognizable. This fact is evident from the nil figures of cases registered under this act as given by the Superintendent of Police from 1961 to 1973.

The Ponwars like a few others take a price for their daughters at their marriage.⁵

Marital Age

Child-marriages seem to be prevalent, but not on a very alarming scale. One per cent males and 4 per cent females were reported to be married in 1961 in the age group 0-14, mostly below ten years of age. In the age group 10-14, the proportion of married males was as high as 4 per cent while that of girls was 17 per cent.

In Seoni District, only 23 per cent of the males in age-group 20-24 in 1961, managed to be out of matrimony.⁶

1. *ibid.* 1907, p. 69.

2. *ibid.* p. 53.

3. *Seoni—Prachin Avam Arvachin*, p. 69.

4. *ibid.* p. 66.

5. *Seoni—District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 54.

6. *Seoni District Hand Book*, 1961, p. 1.

19-10-74

Widow Re-marriage

The remarriage of widows is permitted among all castes except Brahmins, Banias, Kayasthas and the better class of Rajputs.¹ Muslims also permit it.

However, most of the Rajputs, generally, have adopted widow remarriage and say that this was first done on the occasion of a war with the Deogarh Kingdom when many of their men were killed leaving young widows; and these had to be permitted to marry again for fear of their doing worse.²

The Ponwars receive a high sum for the marriage of widows of full age.³ Lodhis have prohibited the remarriage of widows though the bulk of the caste allows it.⁴

Divorce

Roughly, 1 in every 100 males and similarly 1 in every 100 females in the year 1961, were either divorced or otherwise separated from their spouses. The proportions are not apparently high and do not merit detailed discussion.⁵ It is so because except in Muslims and Christians, divorce is not occasionally permissible in upper and middle class caste Hindus. Even then during the decade 1964-74 in all 27 cases were registered for divorce. Out of them divorce was permitted by the District and Sessions Judge in 14 cases only.

The Judge has also informed that out of the 79 cases received in connection with marriage problems under the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, during this period, 52 were rejected and decrees were issued in the remaining cases, barring 4 cases which were reported pending at the end of 1974.

In Gonds and Ahirs divorce is permissible. It is called *chhod-chhutti* in both of them.⁶

Prostitution

From the report of the Superintendent of Police received from time to time it is observed that there are no prostitutes in the District, collectively or individually residing in any village.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, pp. 68-69.

2. *ibid.* 1907, p. 54.

3. *ibid.*

4. *ibid.* p. 56.

5. *Seoni District Census Hand Book*, 1961, p. 11.

6. *Seoni—Prachin Avam Arvachin* p. 59.

Traffic in Women

Under the 'Traffic in Women and Girls' Act, 1956, the police has not registered a single case during the period 1961-73.

Drinking

The Gonds are much addicted to liquor and spend on it a large portion of their scanty earnings. Drink is an indispensable adjunct at all religious ceremonies, and at the celebration of births, weddings and funerals¹.

The Katias, a scheduled caste of cotton-spinners, like most of the other scheduled castes, are great drunkards and when they go to inter their dead, take liquor with them for consumption at the burial ground.²

The number of cases registered by the police since 1961 shows initially an ascending and then a descending trend. From 7 in 1961, it rose to as high as 33 in 1967. It further gradually came down descending from 69 in 1968 to 57 in 1973. Though a true picture of drinking habit can not be drawn from these statistics, it clearly indicates the pressure of the police atleast on public places to combat the social evil.

Gambling

Till the 'fifties, gambling was confined to hotels and clubs. It was in the 'sixties that it made its recourse in public places and police started catching the culprits red handed.

Under the Gambling Act, 44 cases were caught in 1961 which rose to 65 in 1967, of course with a little decline during 1963-65 period. But it assumed enormous proportions since 1968 when the number rose to 124. During the period 1969-71, the number was practically stationary but highest so far (233). It seems police became more vigilant later on when in 1972 and 1973 the number came down to 200 and 204, respectively. As is well known police figures can't satisfy sociological observations as all the cases are not reported to them. The only conclusion which could be drawn from these figures is that the menace has multiplied nearly 5 times in a decade.

HOME LIFE

Type of Dwellings

In forest tracts, the houses of Gonds are a most primitive affair, the walls often consisting only of unwashed daub. They build their village in the form of one long street running from east to west. Their villages are lowly, neat and clean³.

Big land owners have a large, double storied, white washed house with a flat roof by preference. In the rice-growing area or Perwari Tract, as it is locally called, they have still better houses, often with separate buildings for bathing, cooking, living, keeping their cattle and entertaining guests.

Timber is more plentiful here, and the sandy qualities of the earth make mud walls more easy of construction than in the black-soil tracts. Separate sheds for grain are usually constructed in front of the dwelling house so as to be always under the master's eye¹.

In Lakhnadon tahsil, the houses and the general aspect of villages are poorer than elsewhere.

A tenants house is divided into two rooms; large tenants have a separate shed (Konda) for cattle but small tenants keep them in one of the rooms. Most cultivators have a little garden behind the house in which they grow maize, chillies, tobacco or vegetables².

Furniture and Decorations

The furniture consists of a sleeping-cot for each member of the family when this can be afforded, some low wooden stools with seats made from hemp or *moya* grass, stone and earthen grinding mills, a mortar of wood or stone for pounding rice, one or two earthen cooking-places, some bamboo baskets, some earthen saucers to serve as lamps, and the cooking and eating vessels of the family.³

Dress

Men usually wear ordinary white clothes. Land owners wear coats with buttons and cotton trousers for full dress. Most cultivators have a long handkerchief of coloured thin country cloth, which they carry over the shoulder or round the waist and in which they tie up money, tobacco and any other small articles they require with them. A small piece of red cloth, called *angochha* serves as the common head-dress in the rural areas.

Women wear a *ahenga* drawn up between the legs behind, with a shoulder cloth and an *angia* or breast cloth, tied with strings at the back and patched with pieces of coloured cotton cloth to make it look attractive. Others have the long cloth going round the waist and over the shoulders known as *dhutia* or *sari*. These are often black or bluish-black and less frequently red or blue. Gond women have also recently adopted coloured clothes in imitation of their Hindu sisters.

In *Kasbas* and big villages both male and female dress is westernized especially in the educated and the school going boys and girls.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 58.

2. *ibid.* p. 60.

3. *ibid.* p. 62.

1. *ibid.* pp. 65-66.

2. *ibid.* p. 66.

3. *ibid.*

Shoes are of two kinds called *nokdar* and *munda*, the former having pointed toes. The better classes in towns wear company-made shoes imported from Kanpur, Calcutta and Delhi. Women have *tarias* or sandals open round the instep¹.

Food

Chapatīs of wheat taken with pulse and vegetables, is the staple food of the better classes and *Chapatīs* of *juar* and *kodon-kutki* boiled in water of the poorer ones. The *pej* or the water in which rice or *kodon* has been boiled is also taken by the agricultural classes. However, in all rice is more in use than wheat.

The well-to-do classes eat twice, those who cultivate with their own hands twice or three times and the Gonds sometimes four times a day. The peasants in general with their meals, enjoy a few chillies and a little salt after them. Tender shoots of gram plucked from the field are their favourites in spring season. Country beans and tomatoes are other vegetables often grown in gardens. The oil of *Jagni* is mixed with vegetables for cooking.

Among the delicacies consumed at festivals, and offered to guests, are wheat cakes fried in hydrogenated oil, curds and gram-flour boiled with chillies, salt, turmeric and coriander and rice. Some sweets sometimes form a part of this dish these days.

Smoking is general, tobacco being principally consumed. Opium is sometimes given to children until they are three or four years old to keep them quiet. Betel-leaf is only obtainable in the large villages and the ordinary cultivator eats areca nuts alone².

COMMUNAL LIFE

Pilgrim Centres and Jatras

Lakhanwara, Keolari and Jeonara of Seoni and Hinai (2 days) of Lakhnadon tahsil are the places where generally 3 day's religious fairs are organised by Panchayats on *Makar Sankranti*. Thousands of people congregate there from surrounding areas.

Kartik Poornima is another occasion when fairs are held at Chirchira (15 days) and Mudara (30 days) of Seoni and Gowari (3 days) of Lakhnadon tahsil.

Harduli, Lova Sarra (5 days), Chirrau, Gorakhpur and Bhairathan are other places, all in Lakhnadon tahsil, where generally fairs of 3 days duration are organised. They are called *Chaitri Poornima Fair*, *Bandar Chuha Fair* (Nov./Dec.), *Kolhughat Fair* (Oct./Nov.), *Ramkundi Fair* (Jan./Feb.) and *Math Ghogra Fair* (Feb/March).³ Some two to five thousand people assemble and local people, with the help of Gram Panchayat or Janapada, as the case may be, make arrangements.

1. *ibid.* 67.

2. *ibid.* pp. 66-p. 67.

3. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. 302.

There is no doubt that pilgrimage plays a great part in the life of the village folk. Parties of pilgrims continually leave their villages and travel by rail or road to distant shrines. They come back with stories of what they have seen and heard. These pilgrimages infuse a healthy circulation into the otherwise stagnant pool of village life.¹

Dances

Satta dance is performed by males alone on *Bhadrpad Ekam*, the second day after *Raksha Bandhan*² and also on certain other festivities. It comprises a number of different patterns which allow several variations. It begins with walking round in a circle, gradually the steps of the dancers assume a more vivacious form in rhythm and the singing also adopts a different and rather exciting air. In the end the men dance it by taking two steps forward and one backward³.

In Gond marriages, *Bhadni* dance is performed in the accompaniment of traditional marriage songs⁴.

Dandhar dance is common in Ponwars. It is a special type of song-dance arranged on special occasions. A few men dressed as women stand in a separate line but sing and dance in the accompaniment of their partners⁵.

Festivals

The festivals are observed all the year round. The colourful *Holi* is of course everywhere celebrated with great gusto, it is the principal occasion when *bhang* and *majum* are consumed. The ashes of the *Holi* fire are preserved and used for various purposes such as averting the evil eye and the cure of scorpion bites. Advanced Muslims and Christians also now a days participate in the *fag* (colour throwing), played the next morning.

At *Akshay Tritiya* (or the beginning of the agricultural year in May, new earthen pots are worshipped and the people go out to the fields and offer balls of the pulse of *urad* or *mung* to the field god. The *hom* or sacrificial fire is kindled and the plough is driven three or five times round the field in the direction of the Sun's course. After this, agricultural operations may be begun.

In the month of October, the local Ahirs celebrate the *Mada*. Several villages club together for this festival and everyone takes part in it. The Ahirs dance round a pole with head-dresses of peacock's feathers and necklaces of cowries. The occasion is always one of much marry-making and a certain amount of license.

1. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 64.

2. Seoni-Prachin Avam Arochin, p. 54.

3. The Tribes of Madhya Pradesh, p. 34.

4. *ibid.* p. 59.

5. *ibid.* p. 62.

The *Madai* is celebrated on the day after the festival of light, *Diwali*. Various songs are sung during the dancing and the following translation of one of them is not without poetical feeling :

'They promised to come, but they have never come; the thatch has fallen and the bamboos are cracked. 'Oh, green Diwali' Oh green Diwali. We shall meet, we shall meet at Diwali and if we die, our spirits will meet 'The geese will not stay though you throw pearls before them: they long for their own country.' 'When the woman went to the fields to scare off the birds, she fell asleep and the birds ate the grain. 'My skin is cracked with age, but my heart is young. Oh youth, come back to me that I may enjoy life once more. 'My eyes are so greedy for beauty, that they beg for beauty, that they beg for it wherever they see it: how shall I restrain them.' 'When ever you think that twentyfive and fifteen seers make up a maund, then think of me'.

On the night of the *Diwali* the Ahir stays up all-night and dances and sings in front of his cows and buffaloes, beating a drum to scare away the evil spirits. He dresses himself as a Rajput and takes a sword and shield in order to fight with the spirits. Afterwards he goes to his master and gets a present.²

Ram Navmi, Nav Ratri, Hari Jyoti, Nag Panchmi, Raksha Bandhan, Haritalika, Ganesh Chaturthi, Anant Chaturdashi, Krishna Janmashtmi, Mahalakshmi Vijay Dashmi Sharat - Purnima, Vasant Panchmi, Maha Shivratri etc., are other festivals of the Hindu which are celebrated on pre-appointed dates in the usual religious zeal³ *Pola, Badga, Meghnath, Chaitga etc.*, are some other festivities of local importance.⁴ As elsewhere, *Id, Bakra Id, Miladunnadi* and *Moharram etc.*, are important festival of the Muslim community.

Public Games

In students, as elsewhere, hockey, foot-ball, volleyball are much popular. *Khokho, Kabaddi* are also played where modern sports amenities are not readily available.

Kushti (wrestling) and other allied gymnastics are popular in Seoni proper and other important towns where there are regular *Vyayam Shalas*⁵. The participants convert themselves into a full-fledged *akhada* on festive occasions and place variety shows of acrobatics before the assembled people.

Having a large forest area, hunting is also a popular, though costly, part-time in a particular class of people.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 50.

2. *ibid.*

3. *Seoni-Prachin Avam Arvachin*, p. 52.

4. *ibid.* p. 56.

5. *ibid.* 53, 80.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

With 87.6 per cent of the working force of the District comprising agricultural working categories (cultivators and agricultural labourers) at the Census of 1961, the domination of the economy by agriculture is real and evident. The same position is emphasised by the results of the subsequent Census, of 1971, which showed even a slightly higher percentage of workers, i. e., 88.4, as deriving their livelihood from agricultural sources.

Referring to the results of the Census of 1961, it is further observed that the greater dependence on agriculture can be ascribed mainly to the smaller urban component in the population of the District. There has been no particular drift of the population to the cities and towns in the subsequent decade also. The proportion of workers depending principally on agriculture was greater-nearly 90 per cent in case of the entire rural Lakhnadon Tahsil. In case of Seoni Tahsil, which contains the only town of the District, the dominance of agriculture was to the extent of 86.3 per cent of the working force of that Tahsil.

As amongst workers in Agriculture, cultivators predominate over agricultural labourers by more than 3 to 1. It may thus be noticed that most of the persons in agriculture are cultivators on their own account, cultivating on fields owned by them or taken on lease from others. A better idea of the agricultural economy of the District may be had from the figures of distribution of cultivating households either by interest in land or by size of land cultivated. The figures as available for 1961 census, are based on 20 per cent sample of all the households in the District. It was shown that of the 14,546 cultivating households (with or without household industry) in the rural areas of the District (making 70.8 per cent of the total sample households) as many as 79.2 per cent were owners of the land cultivated by them, 5.9 per cent cultivated lands taken by them on lease from others and the remaining 14.9 per cent cultivated lands partly held by them as owners and partly taken on lease from others. The figures thus indicated that full absentee landlordism was of a small order whereas partial absentee landlordism was of a somewhat higher order.

Paddy and wheat are the two principal crops of the District. From a perusal of the statistics of the last more than 20 years, it appears as if paddy and wheat have been competing to occupy the first position among the crops of the District. In 1971-72 paddy had 87.7 thousand ha while wheat had 86 thousand ha. *Kodon* and *kutki* came next with 53.5 thousand ha. *Jowar* was grown on 14.7 thousand ha. Gram is the most important pulse crop and was

responsible for 27.6 thousand ha. with *teora* (21.9 thousand ha) closely following. The leading oilseed crop is *ramtil* (24.0 thousand ha). Linseed commanded 19.0 thousand ha.

The principal communities following the calling of agriculture are Panwar, Kurmi, Bagari and Gond.

Land Utilization

The table given below shows the land-use pattern in the District in the years 1959-60 and 1971-72:—

Table No. IV--1

	(In '000 Hectares)	Percentage	
		1959-60	1971-72
1. Total Area	871	100	100
2. Forest	323	34	37
3. Not available for cultivation 3.1 put to non-agricultural uses 3.2 Barren and unculturable.	43	5.4 (4.8) (0.6)	5. (4) (1)
4. Other Uncultivated land	70	15.1	8
4.1 Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	41	(8.1)	(4.7)
4.2 Miscellaneous tree crops and groves ..	1	(0.4)	(0.1)
4.3 Culturable waste	28	(6.6)	(3.2)
5. Fallowland	61	8.3	7
5.1 Old fallows	39	(5.4)	(4.5)
5.2 Current fallows	22	(2.9)	(2.5)
6. Net area sown	374	37	43
7. Area sown more than once	33		
8. Gross sown area	407		

Figures of land-use pattern in the above table show that in the year 1971-72, the total geographical area of the District was 871 thousand ha. Out of this area forests contributed 37 per cent, in 1959-60 the corresponding figure was 34. These forests comprise forest controlled by Forest Department as well as those controlled by Revenue Deptt. Five per cent of the area was not available for cultivation (5.4 per cent in 1959-60) either being put to non-agricultural uses or being barren and unculturable. Other unculturable lands were responsible for 8 per cent. There has been significant decrease in area under this head in comparison to that of 1959-60 when it was 15.1. This land-use embraces land of three varieties. Of these, land occupied by miscellaneous tree crops and groves has never been significant while permanent pastures and other grazing lands and culturable waste lands have almost shrunk to half their former extent,

In 1971-72, seven per cent of the total District area was classified as fallow comprising old and current fallows. The corresponding percentage in 1959-60 was 8.3. The decrease is mainly reflected in decline in old fallows. In 1959-60 roughly 12 per cent of the land surface was covered either by old fallows or culturable waste. This was a high proportion though it was partly owing to the necessary resting periods given to poorer millet growing soils. It indicated the necessity of more judicious land use. This imbalance has been restored to some extent as the percentage declined to 7.7.

The cropped area has shown continuous expansion from 287 thousand ha. in 1950-51 to 375 thousand ha. in 1968-69. Thereafter there appears to be stagnation for the area declined though slightly to 367 thousand ha in 1970-71. The area came upto 374 thousand ha during the next year. In terms of percentage the cropped area rose from 37 (1959-60) to 43 (1971-72).

Culturable Waste

The area under Culturable waste has tended to decline. From 57 thousand ha. in 1960-61, it came down to 28 thousand ha. in 1971-72. This is mainly due to the efforts both Government and private to bring as much of such land as possible under the plough. However, all the culturable wastelands can not be made culturable immediately. A detailed classification of wastelands in 1971-72, reveals that 16,000 ha can be brought under cultivation immediately, 7,000 ha after affecting some improvement and the rest, i. e., 5,000 ha consisted of uneconomical patches of land.

Two schemes for the settlement of landless agricultural labourers on culturable wastelands have been in operation in the District. One of them has been sponsored by the Central Government and the other by the State Government. Under the former scheme, during the year 1968-69, families numbering 52 were settled in 231 ha. of land in Seoni Tahsil. Each family was provided financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 750 out of which 75 per cent was treated as subsidy and the remaining 25 per cent as loan. Under the latter scheme in the year 1964-65, families numbering 34 were settled on 110 ha. of land and in 1968-69, 25 families were settled on 103 ha. of land.

IRRIGATION

A clear picture of state of irrigation as it existed at the beginning of the Century is available in the old District Gazetteer. It may be worthwhile to quote :

"The largest irrigated area was 32,000 acres or 5 per cent of the total in 1891-92..... and in 1904-05 was 10,500. The District contains about 600 irrigation tanks and about 500 durable and 1,000 temporary wells. The area watered from wells is usually less than 1,000 acres and consists of sugarcane and vegetables. Rice is irrigated from tanks in the rice tracts of Ugli and Barghat. Regular irrigation tanks are provided with rough sluices at the

sides, and frequently also in the centre to draw off the deep water below the embankment. The sluice often consists of the hollow trunk of a tree embedded in the earth sometimes two placed one above the other while for large tanks channels of brick are made. The opening towards the tank is stopped with a clay pot filled with earth or a curtain of hemp fibre. Small tanks called *gatiyas* are also made by running an embankment across a slope with rice fields lying beneath it. The water collects behind the bank and is let out into the rice fields in September or October and wheat is then sown in the moist bed of the tank. Embankments for wheat fields hitherto been very rare, but in the last few years, a few of the best agriculturists have begun to construct them. The highest proportion of fully embanked fields is found in the villages along the Nerbudda."

In the year 1971-72, Seoni with 7.1 per cent occupied the 16th place amongst the districts of Madhya Pradesh, Judged from the point of view of the percentage of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area. In the same year, the percentage for the entire State came to 8.2.

During the period 1950-51 to 1971-72 there has been perceptible development in irrigation. Though by no means satisfactory looking to the needs of the District the area in receipt of irrigation having increased from 17 thousand ha to 29 thousand ha. A continuous upward trend is noticeable except in the year 1965-66, when the area dropped to 11.7 thousand ha.

Sources of Irrigation

Canals have emerged as the most important provider of irrigation. In 1950-51, tanks with 8,411 ha. had held this honour, canals having only 5,125 ha to contribute. But thereafter the position reversed and though there has been development in both the sources but tanks lagged behind. Wells have never been important. In 1971-72 out of 29.0 thousand ha of irrigated land, canals contributed 16.4 thousand ha, tanks 7.0 thousand ha, wells 2.9 thousand ha and other sources 2.7 thousand ha.

In 1971-72, the number of irrigation sources was 26 canals, 6 reservoirs, and 648 wells, used for irrigation. The number of wells had increased from 8,900 in 1955-57 to 11,648 in 1971-72.

The District is studded with a large number of small irrigation tanks. These tanks were previously under the management of *malguzars* and *jagirdars* but after the enactment of the Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, 1950, the management of these tanks passed on to the State and it was decided to repair them on priority basis and develop irrigation from them to the largest possible extent.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, pp. 92-93.

The table below shows the block wise distribution of irrigation wells, oil engines and electric pumps in the year 1970-71.

Table No. IV-2

Blockwise number of Irrigation Wells, Oil Engines and Electric Pumps

Block	Irrigation Wells	Oil Engines	Electric Pumps
1. Dhanora	402	24	..
2. Kurai	810	54	74
3. Chhapara	768	25	68
4. Lakhnadon	706	125	86
5. Seoni	1,560	140	173
6. Keolari	1,214	35	90
7. Barghat	3,800	70	43
8. Kanhikhas (Ghansore)	143	8	4
Total District	9,403	481	538

Crops Irrigated

Almost the whole of irrigated area is appropriated by paddy and wheat accounting for 23.7 thousand ha. and 3.5 thousand ha. (i.e., 27.2 thousand ha.) out of the total figure of 29.0 thousand ha. in 1971-72. Sugarcane claimed 700 ha. and fruits and vegetables 640 ha.

The oldest irrigation project of the District is Roomal Tank. Started in 1905, the project was completed in 1911. It cost the State Exchequer Rs. 3.19 lakhs and the area proposed for irrigation was 4,680 acres. Construction of Bori Tank was started in 1923 and completed in 1927. It involved an expenditure of Rs. 10.12 lakhs and had irrigation capacity of 7,500 acres.

Launching of the Grow More Food Campaign in 1944 marked the beginning of the construction of irrigation works. The Campaign started for augmenting food production in the country included construction of medium and minor irrigation schemes by the Irrigation Department and petty schemes by the Agriculture Department. Construction of Ari irrigation project was sanctioned as a medium scheme. The project with an irrigated area of 10,500 acres (4,249 ha.) was taken up on 18th November, 1946 and completed in 1952 at an outlay of Rs. 33.70 lakhs. Another project Chhichbund tank was completed during the year 1946-1951 at a cost of Rs. 8.76 lakhs. It is capable of irrigating 2,023 ha.

The latter class of schemes included sinking of new wells, repair of old wells and construction and repair of small village tanks.

During the First Five Year Plan two village projects were started in the District at a cost of Rs. 19 thousand and capacity of 112 ha. One of the schemes was, however, completed in Second Plan.

During the Second Five Year Plan an irrigation work, Sagarnadi, medium in size was taken up for construction. Estimated to cost Rs. 31.07 lakhs it was to irrigate 1,594 ha.

The following table gives the details of minor irrigation projects included in the Second Five Year Plan :—

Table No. IV-3
Minor Irrigation—Second Plan

No.	Scheme	Tahsil	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Area Proposed for Irrigation (Acres)	Year of Completion/Progress of work on 31-3-61
1.	Badalpur Tank	Seoni	2.54	454	Complete
2.	Lungsa Tank	"	0.18	122	May, 1960
3.	Manegaon Tank	"	0.25	150	Sept., 196
4.	Tighara Tank	"	0.25	195	II Plan
5.	Mandi Minor	"	0.21	600	II Plan
6.	Chinna Kanj Water Course	"	0.06	189	II Plan
7.	Tinsa Regulator	"	0.29	191	June, 196
8.	Kesala Regulator	"	0.22	412	II Plan
9.	Air Tank	"	0.24	56	II Plan
10.	Ranpurj Regulator	"	0.53	326	
11.	Sareka Tank	"	0.29	135	
12.	Dori-Chhatarpur Regulator	"	0.28	147	

A medium irrigation project—Bargoor was included in the Third Plan of the District. It was estimated to cost Rs. 23.00 lakhs and irrigated 5,000 acres,

Minor Irrigation

As already noted, it is the function of the Agriculture Department to implement schemes relating to this sector of irrigation. The related achievements are shown in the following table :—

Table No. IV-4
Achievements of Minor Irrigation

	Total III Plan	1966-67	67-68	68-69	69-70	70-71	71-72
1. Construction of new wells	1,607	617	358	140	433	135	397
2. Repair of old wells	1,075	428	..	..	156	..	..
3. Installation of oil engine pumps	79	65	29	1	95	135	117
4. Installation of electric pumps	12	6	23	..	..	410	329
5. Installation of Persian wheels	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Deepening of wells through boring and blasting.	..	..	..	..	148	379	56

Contour Bunding

Soil is the mother of all plant life on the earth. Depletion of the fine particles of the soil either denudes the land of all plant life or reduces its yield. For saving the soil from erosion, Agriculture Department has undertaken the work of contour bunding. The progress of this work in recent years is indicated below :—

Table No. IV-5
Progress of Contour Bunding

Year	Area Under Contour Bunding ('000 Hectares)
1967-68	4.49
1968-69	6.31
1969-70	5.63
1970-71	4.88
1971-72	5.78
1972-73	6.00

Soils

The District was last settled in 1915-21, when seven kinds of soils were distinguished. These are *kabar*, *morand-I*, *morand-II*, *morand-III*, *mutbarra*, *sehra* and *barra*. *Kabar* corresponds to the rich black alluvium of the Narmada Valley. It is rather scarce in the District. It is distinguished from *morand* as being less friable and heavier bulk for bulk and it also cracks to a greater extent. This

soil is of great fertility growing the best sugarcane and producing good crops of wheat year-after-year without manure and without rotation. *Morand* is a friable loam, varying in colour from black to brown. It often contains a considerable admixture of black stones or sand and everywhere a certain proportion of limestone nodules. It is better suited for wheat than gram and masur and if irrigated will carry sugarcane. *Morand-I* is distinguished from *morand-II* by its greater depth, its darker colour, and small proportion of tiny limestones. *rand-II* contains a large admixture of sand; the pabbles or limestones in it are considerably bigger than in *morand-I*. *Morand-III* is a shallow soil, and inferior variety of *morand-II*, containing larger stones. It is suitable for minor *rabi* crops, or a good *Kharif* crop, but requires rotation. *Morand* is the most extensive soil in the District, and the first two types of it are suitable for growing wheat. The open portions of Lakhnadon plateau, Seoni *haveli*, and the upper (northern) portions of the valleys of Sagar and Hirri rivers contain sizeable proportion of *morand* soil. *Sehra*, the soil formed from the detritus of crystalline rock in the east of the District, is a yellow sandy soil, particularly suited for rice, but must have plenty of water and is greatly improved by manures. *Sehra* though of natural poor fertility, produces excellent crop of rice with the assistance of manure and irrigation. *Mutbarra* is either black or a brown soil; a mixture of *morand* and *barra*. It is less than six inches in depth and is usually put under *Kharif* crops, though requiring occasional resting fallows. In the rice tract, *mutbarra* is a mixture of *morand* and *sehra*. *Barra* is a reddish coloured gravel, thickly strewn with large stones. Sometimes it is almost free of stones and at others full of large yellow flints. Occurring, on the higher slopes and summits of hills, this soil is suitable for the millets like *Kodon-Kutki*, *Jowar* and oilseeds, like *Jagani*. It requires frequent resting fallows, as it is easily exhausted.

There are also a few hundred acres of *Kuchhar* or land situated on or below the bank of a river or stream which receives a deposit of rich sediment from being flooded during the rains. The following table gives distribution of the soil of the District separately for the two tahsils as per last settlement (1915-21):—

Table No. IV-6
Tahsilwise Distribution of Soils

District/Tahsil	Area Under			
	Kabar	Morand-I	Morand-II	
Seoni District				
Lakhnadon Tahsil	8,812	1,98,631	3,64,21	
Seoni Tahsil	3,436	64,517	91,44	
	5,376	1,34,114	2,72,6	
District/Tahsil	Area under			
	Morand-III	Mutbarra	Sehra	Barra
Seoni District				
Lakhnadon Tahsil	1,07,443	2,22,157	2,52,592	2,80,384
Seoni Tahsil	32,254	71,345	1,80,927	7,978
	75,189	1,50,812	71,665	2,72,406
				9,52,080

The soil of every Block of the District has been sent to the soil testing laboratory for chemical analysis. The results obtained indicate that mostly the soil is poor in nitrogen and phosphorus and adequate in potash. The most fertile soil of the District is located in Seoni, Barghat and Keolari Blocks.

Crops

The two principal agricultural seasons are *kharif* and *rabi*. The proportion of *kharif* and *rabi* is not a fixity and has tended to vary. In the year 1904-05 *kharif* crops covered 53 per cent and *rabi* crops 47 per cent of the cropped area as compared with 44 and 56 per cent, respectively, in 1893-94. In 1971-72 the proportion of *kharif* to *rabi* was 57 : 43. In the same year food crops accounted for 84 per cent of the total cropped area and rest, i.e., 16 per cent by non-food crops. The actual position of *kharif* and *rabi*, (food and non-food crops) is shown below:—

	(In '000 Hectares)		
<i>Kharif</i>			
Food crops	188.7		
Non-food crops		41.6	
Total <i>Kharif</i>			230.3
<i>Rabi</i>			
Food crops	154.9		
Non-food crops		32.2	
Total <i>rabi</i>			177.1
	343.6	63.8	407.4

The table given below portrays the relative position of the agricultural crops of the District which have a bearing on the economy of the District:—

Table No. IV-7
Principal Crops 1971-72

Crop	Area ('000 Ha)	Production Yield Kg. '000 Tonnes)	per Ha.
Paddy	87.7	106.9	1,242
Wheat	86.7	37.2	449
Jowar	14.7	9.6	623
Maize	6.7	6.9	984
Kodon Kutki	53.5	9.7	183
Gram	27.6	17.1	596
Tur	6.2	5.3	1,260
Moong Moth	1.2	0.2	226
Urad	21.9	1.1	239
Peas	5.3	6.9	332
Masoor	10.9	1.3	279
Groundnut	5.4	4.6	358
Sesamum	8.2	0.9	108
Rape and Mustard	1.3	0.6	481
Linseed	19.0	5.5	320
Ramtil	24.0	N.A.	..
Sugarcane	7.0	2.8	3,371
Sunhemp	31.0	6.6	443
Fruits	.3		
Vegetables	.8		
Spices	.9		

The farmers of this District commence their agricultural operations from Akshaya Tritiya considering it to be an auspicious day. Sowing operations begin after the rains have set in. The accumulated wisdom which has been handed down from generation-to-generation is represented by some proverbs. Some specimens are given below :—

1. Barhe poot pita ke dherma
Kheti upaje apane karma.

(A Son grows due to the virtues of father, the crop grows due to ones own industry.)

2. Phagun mas bahe purwai,
Tab gehun men gerui aai.

(If winds blow in the month of Phalgun, then rust attacks wheat)

3. Poos Magh bahe purwai
Tab Sarson ko mahoo khai.

(If winds blow in the month of Poos and Magh, then caterpillar eats mustered.)

In the following paragraphs some important crops have been described at some length.

Wheat

Wheat is the most important crop in the District. The area under it in 1896-97 was 1,25,000 acres and amounted to 2,62,000 acres, in 1904-05. The statistics of the last 20 years show that area under wheat has continuously expanded; the area having expanded from 66 thousand ha. in 1950-51 to 86.7 thousand ha. in 1971-72, though highest record of 90.3 thousand ha was reached in 1969-70. It is principally grown in the Seoni, Chhapara, Lakhnadon, Ghansore, Kurai and Dhanora Blocks of the District

There is one ploughing in summer, repeated harrowing in rainy season followed by three or four cultivations and planking immediately before sowing. These operations produce a firm seed bed for the dry crop. For the irrigated crop land is given a pre-sowing irrigation and the number of ploughings is reduced. Sowing usually starts in the second half of October after the September rain known as *hathi-ka-pani* and continues to the middle of November. Later sowing results in poor quality of grain and low yield. It is sown by broadcasting, drilling or dibbling. In rough, dry and light soils, deeper sowing is advisable while comparatively shallower sowing is more desirable in moist or heavy land. The rows of plants are usually spaced nine inches to 12 inches apart. Progressive farmers apply 15 to 20 lbs. of nitrogen per acre in the form of ammonium sulphate at sowing time for profitable response. For irrigated wheat, split application of 30 to 40 lbs. of nitrogen with 20 to 30 lbs. of phosphoric acid is recommended. The addition of super phosphate alongwith green manure gives a marked increase in yields.

In case wheat is raised as an irrigated crop, the first watering is normally given one month after sowing. Irrigation at flowering stage is very essential. Three or four irrigations fully serve the purpose.

Small embankments are made to prevent erosion, but fields embanked on all sides as in Jabalpur *haveli* are very rarely found. Occasionally embanked fields are made above rice land so that the water can be let out of the field for the irrigation of the rice crop and wheat be subsequently sown in the damp ground.

The area is harvested when the grain is dead ripe and the straw is golden yellow and brittle. Harvesting starts from middle of January and goes on to March. The output of rainfed crop is higher.

In 1971-72 the out-turn of wheat was estimated as 37.2 thousand tonnes. The yield per hectare was 449 kg. In 1969-70, the yield rate was 408 kg. per ha.

Paddy

Paddy cultivation is principally confined to Seoni, Barghat and Keolari Blocks of the District. Inferior lands which were growing inferior crops like *kodon-kutki* and *jowar* have been made suitable for paddy by construction of *bunds* and *bandhias*, thus enabling such lands to retain moisture. In this way acreage under paddy has been extended.

Round about the turn of the Century paddy cultivation commanded 1,04,000 acres in 1893-94 and 41,000 acres in 1899-1900 the highest and the lowest of the acreage during the period. In the year 1950-51 paddy had 64 thousand ha. The figure increased to 87.7 thousand ha. in 1971-72, which incidentally was the highest figure since the year 1950-51.

Paddy is sown by two methods. About half of the paddy area is sown by transplantation method (*ropa*) and the other half by sowing the seeds (*boar*). The former method does not require weeding while in the latter weeding is necessary. The seed is sown in the rows in areas of heavy rainfall and sown broadcast where rainfall is moderately heavy. The seed is sown with a three or four coultered seed-drill or a *desi* plough equipped with a seed sowing equipment consisting of a cup and a tube.

In puddle-cultivation the seed may be sown after slightly sprouting the same. Alternatively, seedlings grown in a nursery may be transplanted. When the crop is to be transplanted the plants are first sown thickly in small plots or nurseries called *khar*, which are heavily manured.

When sufficient rain has fallen, the rice fields are ploughed into a state of liquid mud with a sort of harrow (*datiri*) and after about a month of growth in the nurseries, the young plants are taken up and dabbed into this mud with a stick or with the finger. Sometimes, if the field is soft enough, they may simply be thrown into it. Transplanted paddy requires a favourable rainfall in August and September and a considerable proportion of it is irrigated. Rice sown broadcast

is ploughed up when a few inches high and the harrow or *datri* is then dragged over the field upside down to press in the plants again. By this means most of the weeds are killed and the field does not as a rule require weeding afterwards. Water must be standing in the field when the plants are ploughed up. This process is not usually carried out in fields of black soil, perhaps owing to the difficulty of ploughing and here the crop is simply weeded.

During the years 1955-56 to 1971-72 the highest out-turn of 102.4 thousand tonnes was obtained in 1971-72. The lowest was 33.4 thousand tonnes in 1965-66. In 1971-72, the yield of paddy was 1,242 Kg. per ha.

Kodon-Kutki

Kodon-kutki constitute the second important group of *kharif* crops of the District. They are the third most widely grown crops of the District. They are the staple food in the form of *pejor* a thin gruel of the poor tribal population of the District. The cultivation of *kodon-kutki* is more concentrated in Lakhana-don Tahsil. According to the statistics contained in the Gazetteer (1907), the largest area recorded under them was 1.53 lakh acres in 1894-95 and the smallest 1.16 lakh acres in 1897-98. In the year 1971-72 *kodon-kutki* together accounted for 53.5 thousand ha. In the same year production was recorded as 9.7 thousand tonnes.

Jowar

In the beginning of the century *jowar* covered from 12,000 to 40,000 acres. In the year 1971-72, *jowar* had 14.7 thousand ha. *Jowar* is sown with a *tifa dufan* or *bakhar* with a bamboo-tube attachment or simply broad cast. It is frequently sown mixed with several other crops as *tur*, *urad*, *moong kodon* and cotton. The seed is sown in the beginning of July and the crop is ready for cutting by the end of December. *Jowar* stalks are used as cattle feed. In 1971-72, *jowar* gave an out-turn of 9.6 thousand tonnes, the yield being 623 Kg. per ha.

Pulses

Pulse crops represent an important group of food crops occupying 79 thousand ha. in 1971-72. Out of these, gram with 27.6 thousand ha. is the fourth important food crop of the District. Other pulse crops are *tiura* (21.9 thousand ha.), *urad* (5.4 thousand ha.), *tur* (6.2 thousand ha.), *masur* (10.9 thousand ha.) and *peas* (5.3 thousand ha.). During the years 1950-51 to 1971-72, area under gram has varied but little between 25 and 30 thousand ha.

Cultivating methods of gram are identical with those of wheat. Seed may be sown either broadcast or with a sowing tube. Broadcast gram is called *chharra*. The broadcast crop is earlier than the other which is sown at the same time as wheat and cut about 15 days before it. Gram is sown both singly and as a mixture with wheat or linseed and also as a second crop in black soil fields. When sown with linseed the proportion is 30 per cent of this crop to 70 per cent of gram. Three main varieties of gram grown in the District are *sae* (*parbatia*) *lal* and *faram*.

The out-turn of gram amounted to 17.1 thousand tonnes in 1971-72, against 8.3 thousand tonnes of the previous year. The yield was recorded as 557 Kg.

per ha. in 1971-72, against the figure of 454 Kg. in 1970-71 and 301 Kg. in 1969-70.

Tiura is another old weather pulse of considerable importance occupying, as noted before, second rank amongst the pulses of the District. It covered from 12,000 to 30,000 acres or two to four per cent of the cropped area in the opening years of the century. *Tiura* was responsible for 18.0 thousand ha. in 1969-70 and 21.9 thousand ha. in 1971-72. There are two varieties of the pulse of which the one with a larger seed called *Tiura* or *lakh* is sown as a cold weather crop while the smaller called *lakhori* is grown as a second crop in irrigated rice fields.

Oil-seeds

The area devoted to the cultivation of oil-seeds was 58.2 thousand ha. in 1971-72, an increase of 7.4 thousand ha. over the figure of 1969-70. The principal seed crop is linseed occupying 19.0 thousand ha. The other crops in order are *til* (8.2 thousand ha.) and groundnut (5.4 thousand ha.) *Ramtil* with 24.0 thousand ha. had precedence over linseed. The area of both *til* and linseed has doubled during the years 1950-51 to 1971-72, i.e. from 3.9 thousand ha. to 8.2 thousand ha. in case of *til* and 9.3 thousand ha. to 19.0 thousand ha. in case of linseed. The out-turn for the latter year was reported to be 0.9 thousand tonnes for *til* and 5.5 thousand tonnes for linseed.

Soyabean

Soyabean has gained considerable prominence in recent years. Its cultivation is being actively popularized by the Government. Soyabean is a very rich and yet cheap source of protein and fat. Its extended cultivation besides improving the nutritional standard of the people will also lead to the diversification of agricultural production.

Soyabean prefers sandy loams. Well-drained soil is most suitable for its cultivation. One ploughing and two *bakharings* are sufficient to prepare a seed bed fit for the reception of Soyabean seeds. In some areas deep ploughing, moisture conservation techniques under dry farming, crop rotation have also been found useful in promoting the growth of plants. Being a commercial crop proper doses of nitrogen and phosphorus are necessary for maximum benefit. For Seoni the proper doses are 8 Kg. of nitrogen, 32 Kg. of phosphorus and 8 Kg. of potash per acre. Seed requirements are 40 Kg. per acre.

The seed is sown in July or after the first showers have drenched the soil. It is mostly raised as a dry crop though two light irrigations will stimulate the growth of the plants. When the plants attain a height of six inches one weeding is essential. A second weeding after a month improves the performance of the crop. The crop is harvested in 110 days. The average yield comes to six to eight quintals per acre. Stem fly is the common insect-pest of soyabean. Soyabean is exported in large quantities to Maharashtra, the main receiving centre being Nagpur.

Sanhemp

It may be worth while quoting from the old Gazetteer as regards the introduction and cultivation of this fibre crop in this District.

"Another crop which has recently become important is *san-hemp* (*Crotalaria juncea*) and the objection which members of the good castes formerly entertained to sowing it is fast disappearing. In 1904-05 it covered 15,000 acres having increased from 5,000 acres in 1893-94. *San* is often grown on *Kachhar* land along the banks of the rivers and also in gardens. It is sown in the beginning of the rains and cut in November or December. The seed is sown very thick so that the plants may stand close together and may be prevented from branching out as this spoils the yield of fibre."

In the year 1971-72, *san* hemp had 3,100 hectares and the production was 6,600 bales. Cultivation of *san* is mainly concentrated in Chhapara and Bhimgarh. Kanhiwada Palari, Keolari, Bhima, Seoni. Mungaoni also grow *san*, though in smaller quantity. *San* of Seoni commands a reputation in foreign markets due to the excellence of its quality. It is known by its trade name Seoni Fine. Its fibres are very strong. This *san* is used for making fish nets and tent ropes. It is reported that about nine tenths of the produce is exported.

Sugarcane

Sugarcane was grown only on 700 ha. in 1971-72, the area having declined from 900 ha. in 1969-70. Its cultivation is confined to areas having well irrigation. The main varieties sown are *ponda*, *pachrang* and *mungi*. Cane is used for the local manufacture of *gur*.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the year 1971-72, fruits were grown on 332 ha. and vegetables on 830 ha. Thus both the crops together were responsible for only 1,160 ha. The principal fruits are guava (23 ha.) orange (26 ha.) and mango (203 ha.) Water melons are raised in sandy stretches exposed by the side of rivers. Amongst Vegetables mention may be made of potatoes (240 ha.) and onions (130 ha.) Agriculture Department is promoting the expansion of fruits and vegetables.

It may be interesting to have a glance at the total quantum of food grains and oilseeds produced in the District which has been presented in the table below:

Table No. IV-8

Outturn of Crops (In '000 Tonnes)

	Total Cereals	Total Pulses	Total Foodgrains	Total Oilseeds
1969-70	164.9	24.6	189.5	11.2
1970-71	168.1	36.3	204.4	12.9
1971-72	177.7	36.7	214.4	15.0

1. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 89.

Agricultural Implements

The table given below shows the number of agricultural implements in use in the District during the two years 1960-61 and 1971-72. There has been an increase in almost all types of agricultural machinery but the most marked increase is noticeable in case of irrigation pumps, both oil and electric. This is a pointer to the rising consciousness of the farmers, towards irrigation.

Table No. IV-9

Agricultural Implements and Machinery

Year (1)	Ploughs		Carts (4)	Sugarcane Crushers	
	Wooden (2)	Iron (3)		Power (5)	Bullocks (6)
1960-61	80,113	125	42,894	11	15
1971-72	93,922	94	65,547	14	26

Year	Irrigation Pumps		Persian Wheels (9)	Mote (10)	Tractors (11)	Ghanis (12)
	Oil (7)	Electric (8)				
1960-61	147	4	18	3,813	54	493
1971-72	685	724	3	5,434	49	149

Although some of the other improved implements have been in use for the past half a century but the process of modernisation has been very slow. Now more and more improved versions and new implements have been introduced and adopted by the farmers, increasingly.

Improved Seeds

Improved seeds bring the message of higher yields of crops. Therefore, concerted efforts have been made to evolve and spread improved strains of seeds which are disease resistant, high yielding and more nutritious. The two main crops are wheat and paddy and various improved varieties of these crops have been introduced from time to time. Some details are given below:—

Table No. IV-10

Improved Varieties of Seeds

Name of Crop	Name of Improved Variety	Year of Introduction
1. Paddy	T. N. I.	1967-68
	I. R. 8	1968-69
	N. S. J.	1970-71
	Jaya	1970-71
	Padma	1971-72
	Krishna	1972-73
	Bala	1972-73
	Kavery	1972-73
	Sanora-64	1967-68
	S-308	1969-70
2. Wheat	S-227	1969-70
	R. R. 21	1969-70
	Kalyansona	1969-70
	Sonalika	1969-70
	Laxma Rajo.	1970-71
	Hira	1972-73

Improved varieties have been introduced in respect of some other crops also. Names of such crops are soyabean (improved variety Bragg), *til* (N.62-32), groundnut (Junagadh), linseed (T-397), safflower (N-62-8 and local), niger (Ootacmund), and sunflower (E.c. 69874).

Some idea of the coverage by improved varieties of crops can be obtained from the following :—

Table No. IV-11
High Yielding Varieties Coverage

Year	('000 Hectares)			
	Paddy	Wheat	Jowar	Maize
1969-70	3.6	0.4	0.2	0.2
1970-71	2.7	1.2	0.2	0.1
1971-72	6.6	1.4	0.1	..
1972-73 (Target)	15.0	2.0	0.6	..

It has been estimated that in 1971-72 about 7.1 per cent of the paddy area and 1.8 per cent of the wheat area had been saturated with improved seeds.

Manures and Fertilizers

The old Gazetteer informs that manure as a rule was collected only during the four wet months and in the open season dung is made into cakes. It was kept in shallow open pits to which were added the sweepings and refuse of the house. No use was made of liquid manure or of the silt of tanks. The nurseries for transplanted paddy were heavily manured. The manure was used for the maize, gardens and occasionally for jowar and cotton and rarely for wheat.

The conditions have now changed radically. Farm-yard manure, compost and chemical fertilizers are applied to the fields for enriching the soil. Fertilizers were in use prior to independence also, but then their use was very limited. But now they have caught the imagination of the people and their use is gaining popularity day-by-day. Barghat, Seoni and Keolari Blocks are the largest consumers of fertilizers. Paddy, wheat, sugarcane, soyabean and vegetable fields receive the bulk of the supply of fertilizers.

The following table shows the distribution of fertilizers in the District in recent years :—

Table No. IV-12
Distribution of Fertilizers

Year	(in Tonnes)		
	Nitrogenous	Phosphatic	Potassic
1969-70	682	316	30
1970-71	1,163	495	37
1971-72	1,795	218	28

In 1956-57, the quantum of fertilizers consumed was 40 tonnes of ammonium sulphate and 10 tonnes of superphosphate. The respective figures in 1960-61 were 139 and 26 respectively.

It may be interesting to look at the pattern of consumption of fertilizers in 1971-72. In the year ammonium sulphate (209 tonnes), Urea (511 tonnes), Superphosphate (299 tonnes), growmore (142 tonnes), D.A.P. (43 tonnes) and M. O. P. (32 tonnes) were consumed. In the same year, the per hectare-use of all fertilizers, i.e. N.P. & K (in terms of nutrients) was 1.24 kg. (consisting of 0.88 kg. of N., 0.32 kg. of P. and 0.04 kg. of K) against the average of 0.84 kg. in the previous year.

Rotation of Crops

The role of rotation of crops is well realised by the farmers in maintaining and enhancing the fertility of the soil but no systematic system has been followed. In irrigated areas the *kharif* crop of paddy is rotated with wheat in *rabi*. In other areas paddy is rotated with *lakh* (*teora*) or gram or linseed.

As regards *rabi*, wheat is rotated with gram during the next year. Wheat is followed by *lakh* or peas also during the next year as dictated by conditions of soil, climate and rainfall.

The District is traversed by a number of rivers and nullahs but due to the hilly nature of the tract, they flow only in deep valleys. As a result, when they are in spate during the rainy season, their muddy waters do not spread, inundating adjoining land. Thus such land does not benefit by their silt-laden waters.

Some farmers do take out the soil of the tanks and spread it in their fields but this is not a general practice.

Double Cropping

Area double cropped or sown more than once fluctuated between 17 and 19 thousand ha during 1950-51 to 1967-68. Thereafter there has been continuous upward trend and in 1971-72 it amounted to 33 thousand ha or nine per cent of the net area sown. The bulk of the after crops are probably raised in the rice tracts where it is a common practice to sow linseed or one of the pulses in irrigated rice fields after the rice has been cut. The pulse most generally raised is the *akhori*, the small variety of *tiura*. This (*Lakhori*) is sown in a field while water is standing in it after the rice has been cut whereas, linseed is scattered broadcast over the field while the rice is still standing. This method is the one properly known as *utera*. For the gram the field must be ploughed up after the rice has been cut. In the few cases when wheat fields are embanked a catch crop of rice is some times taken during the rains, while water is standing in the fields.

Mixed Cropping

The practice of mixed cropping is also resorted to. This is done with a view to enriching the soil and for harvesting at least one crop in case the prospects of the other crop become bleak. In *kharif* jowar is sown mixed with *kutki* or with

pulses like *tuar*, *urad*, or *mung*. In *rabi* the common mixtures of wheat are gram or linseed.

Plant Protection

Intensive work in this direction has been taken up during the Third and the subsequent Plans. This is done with a view to saving the crops from the damaging effects of a number of insects and pests and diseases that afflict them.

Similarly different weeds do considerable damage to the growing crops either by arresting their growth or by sapping partly the fertility of the soil. The main weeds of paddy tract are *kans*, *doobi*, *nagar motha* and *sangi* while those of wheat tract are *kans*, *chand bel* and *bathua*.

The achievements under this programme are depicted in the Table below:

TABLE No. IV-13

Plant Protection Programme

(In '000 Hacters)

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
Seed Control ..	6.2	3.0	13.8
Crop Protection ..	3.9	1.8	2.3
Rat Control ..	2.2	2.0	0.8
Weed Control ..		0.1	0.7
Safe Storage ..	4.7	0.9	52.1

Community Development Programme

This Programme has done much in arousing the consciousness of the farmers for stepping up productivity of the fields and bringing the requisite knowledge to their doorsteps. The farmers have learnt the valuable lesson of learning by doing.

Intensive Area Agricultural Programme

Seoni, Ugli and Barghat Blocks of the District are covered under the Programme. Agricultural development works like field demonstrations of improved seeds, encouragement for the use of artificial fertilizers, and town and village compost, plant protection development of horticulture and popularization of improved farming techniques are under taken through intensive agricultural information and extension.

Agricultural Farms

An agricultural farm was established in Seoni, at a distance of 11 miles from Seoni Railway Station as early as 1918. It covers an area of 170 acres. It is primarily meant for doing research work. In the year 1961-62 a seed multiplication and demonstration farm was set up at Chhapara. It extends over 100 acres. Another farm was added at Bomakatia.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The table given below shows the livestock numbers of the District:—

TABLE No. IV-14

Livestock Numbers

Category	Census (1)	Census			
		1956 (2)	1961 (3)	1966 (4)	1972 (5)
Cattle ..		4,25,344	4,64,327	4,34,311	4,87,285
Buffaloes ..		83,469	73,441	81,470	86,240
Sheep ..		649	477	495	297
Goats ..		52,693	61,229	65,667	72,916
Horses and Ponies		5,690	3,711	3,600	4,303
Mules and Donkeys		153	149	178	175
Pigs ..		8,538	6,484	5,344	6,638
Total—Livestock		5,74,872	6,11,482	5,91,365	6,57,854

The table clearly brings out the fact that cattle outnumber all the other categories of livestock, accounting for more than three-fourths of the entire livestock numbers in 71-72. Buffaloes are numerically next in importance though only 13 percent. Goats closely follow buffaloes, being responsible for more than eleven per cent. Another fact is that the livestock number showed an increase of six per cent in 1961 in comparison to 1956, but thereafter a decrease was noticeable during the sixties. However, by 1971-72 the number had again increased considerably.

The best cattle are bred in the Kurai and Khawasa tracts, below the Satpura plateau. These are of the Gaolao breed of Wardha and the herds are in charge of the professional Gaolis. The village of Patan may be mentioned as containing a large number of stock. Special bulls are kept for breeding and changed every three or four years. The Gaolao cattle are white with short horns, broad convex foreheads, short ears and large and soft eyes. They have full chests and fairly developed four-arms and their tails are long, thin and tapering. The stock reared on the plateau are poor animals of mixed breed and are known by the generic name of Gondi. They have long horns, short ears and narrow foreheads. In the villages round Adegao cattle of gray colour resembling those of Sagar are raised. There are also a number of animals belonging to the Raigarh breed, which probably come from Jabalpur and Mandla.

The working life of a pair of bullocks is said to be 10 years except in the haveli tract, where owing to the severe labour of cultivation in the heavy black soil and the lack of grazing, they last only for five or six years.

It may be interesting to note that light coloured hoofs are considered a bad mark in a bullock as they are with a pony. While dark heels and horns and a dark coloured line under the body are held to indicate a good animal. A local saying is:

*Bail bisawan jaiya kanth
Bhure ka na dekho dant
Kali ganth ko kajla lije
Char dam adhik dedije*

"Oh husband, when you go to purchase a bullock if his hoofs are white, don't look at his teeth, but if his knees are black, you can pay four rupees more for him".

Area under Fodder Crops

The area devoted to the cultivation of fodder crops is very small—rather negligible. It was barely 10 ha for the quinquennium 1961-62 to 1965-66. It, however, appears that the cattle owners have become increasingly conscious about providing good feed to the cattle. This is evident from the fact that in 1968-69, the area under fodder crops had increased to 2,107 ha. The quinquennial average for the period ending with the same year was 441 ha.

Since the First Five Year Plan, the Veterinary Department is making strenuous efforts to popularize the cultivation of improved grasses like Napier, Para and Berseem. The area under these grasses has come up to 200 ha.

Milk Supply

A town milk supply scheme has been functioning in Seoni town since 15th August 1971. However, it meets only a part of the demand for milk.

Poultry Farming

The number of birds in the year 1956 was 1,75,869 which increased to 2,28,581 in 1961, i.e., by 29 percent. In 1966, there was a sharp decline when the poultry was enumerated as 1,59,807. In 1972, there was again an improvement in numbers to 1,72,056.

The bulk of the fowls are *deshi*. In 1961, improved fowls constituted no more than 0.5 per cent of the total. The next census of 1966, witnessed a further fall in their numbers. Amongst the improved birds white Leghorn has been found suitable for spreading in the District. This bird was introduced in the District in 1969-70. This work has gained momentum with the beginning of the Applied Nutrition Programme in Keolari Block in 1969-70 and Lakahnadon Block in 1972-73.

The impact of this move can be gauged from the fact that the egg-laying capacity of a *deshi* bird is only 50-75 eggs per annum against 150-200 eggs improved birds. Government is encouraging the development of poultry industry in the District through the provision of technical and financial assistance

doth in terms of loan and subsidy, supply of poultry feed and equipment and control of diseases. As a result of these efforts *grampanchayats* have taken up this work. Besides individual poultry units, youth club poultry units have also come into existence.

Fisheries

Fish fauna of the District consists of fishes like *sanwal*, *bam manguri*, *singari endha*, *badh*, etc. They are found in the tanks, reservoirs and rivers of the District. There are 80 tanks, 6 big reservoirs comprising water-spread of one thousand acres. The two rivers flowing through the District, viz., the Wanganga and the Hirri for a length of 130 miles and 43 miles, respectively, constitute the other rich source of fresh water fishes. With the coming up of the Upper Wanganga project the fisheries resources of the District will almost be doubled. Irrigation tanks will further add to these resources.

The traditional fishing equipment was primitive and inefficient. It consisted of dragnets (*jholni*), scoop nets (*pelana*) cast nets (*jhumaua*), traps and barriers and hooks (*dagain*). The fisherman used sealed tin containers, *thapa* and dug-out canoes (*donda*) as crafts.

The opening of the District fisheries office has turned a new leaf in this industry. Ever since its inception this office has endeavoured to improve the efficiency of the fishing industry by introducing new fast growing and high yielding fishes, improved fishing equipment, making available financial and technical help and thus uplifting the fishermen from the poverty which has been their lot.

As the first and the basic step for improving fishing industry, the Fisheries Department introduced major carp varieties of fishes, viz., *Catla*, *catla*, *Labeo rohita*, *Cirrhina mrigala*, *Labeo calbasu* and *Barbus tor*, and common carp variety viz., *Cyprinus carpio*. They were introduced in the years 1958 and 1965, respectively.

Simultaneously, the Fisheries Department took steps to popularize improved gear and craft. The Department advised the fishermen to adopt nylon twine in place of cotton twine. It also advised the adoption of knotless gill nets. The traditional floats and sinkers are made of wood and earth, respectively. The Department suggested their replacement by synthetic floats and iron sinkers. Small boats and motor tubes are taking the place of the traditional dug-out canoe. Some idea of the degree of modernisation can be obtained from the fact that 80 per cent of the gear now in use in the District is modern.

Fishermen are encouraged to organise themselves into cooperative societies to take advantage of the various facilities made available by the Fisheries Department, financial and technical. Moreover, such societies alone are allowed to catch fish on fixed royalty basis, which is a nominal charge. Thus, competition from contractors is avoided to the great economic advantage of the fisherman.

The breeding season of major carps is confined to rainy season and that of common carps to winter and summer seasons. Some varieties of local minor fishes breed during the rainy season. The fishing season for major carps is from September to June while for the rest it is round the year. Annual fish catch is estimated to be 150 metric tonnes out of which the share of major carps is 60 per cent. Fishes are supplied to Calcutta, Nagpur and other towns, Fishes weighing upto 20 srs. have been caught. Fish seed of major carps is obtained from Calcutta and released in the tanks maintained by Irrigation Department.

Measures to Improve Quality of Breed

The breeding policy adopted by the State Government for the District is to upgrade the local stock with Hariana and Murrah bulls by natural service and with Jersey bulls by artificial insemination.

In accordance with this policy four cattle breeding units have been started at Chhapara, Keolari, Dhankokdi and Chakki Khomaria where natural service is provided. Similarly, four artificial units have been set up at Seoni, Lakhandon, Ghansore and Barghat. A key village scheme at Lakhandon with ten sub Centres has begun where Hariana and Murrah bulls are maintained for natural service and Jersey bulls for artificial insemination.

Unproductive and uneconomic cattle are removed to a Gosadan near Jabalpur such cattle die of their natural death in the Gosadan.

Livestock Diseases

The largest mortality among cattle is at the commencement of the rain when they eat the young rank grass in large quantity after a long period of under feeding. From February onwards animals do not get sufficient sustenance to keep them in good condition and their enfeebled frames succumb easily in the rains. The local saying is—

*"Mare mure magh ke
de Asarahe khor."*

"The bullock is really killed by Magh but Asarh gets the blame".

Foot and mouth disease (*khuri*) and rinderpest (*mata*) are the commonest ailments of cattle. The former is fatal only when occurring in virulent form. While some indigenous treatment is given for rinderpest no regular treatment exists for it beyond giving the animal cooling food. Calves suffer much from attacks of itch. Buffalo calves especially are very delicate and their lives are not considered to be secured until they have got into their third year, the local saying being that when a buffalo has seen the lamps of three Diwalis it may be expected to live. Hemorrhagic septi-caemia, black quarter and anthrax are the other cattle diseases. Seoni is the most notorious District of madhya Pradesh as regards the incidence of anthrax.

Rinderpest eradication work was done in the District during the period June 1961 to July 1962. This was followed by follow up work.

Veterinary Hospitals

The first veterinary dispensary of the District came into existence in the opening years of the present century at Seoni. Before the commencement of the First Five Year Plan however there were only two veterinary hospitals and three out-lying veterinary dispensaries. The number of veterinary institutions has since increased considerably and in 1972-73, there were nine veterinary hospitals, 23 veterinary dispensaries and one veterinary mobil unit. Places at which they have been started are mentioned below :

Hospitals:—Seoni, Lakhandon, Chhapara, Ghansore, Dhanora, Beohari Barghat, Keolari, Kurai.

Dispensaries:—Bandal, Manjwani, Phulara, Gopalganj, Chhakk-khamaria, Dhobi-Sarra, Khanhiwara, Dhapara, Bhimgarh, Ghamari, Palari, Ugli, Sunhera, Pandia Chhapara, Dhan-kakdi, Nagandeori, Dhuma, Adegaon, Gosai Khamaria, Ganeshganj, Baghai and Kedarapur.

Mobile Unit:—Seoni.

Cattle Fairs

Weekly cattle markets are held particularly in Seoni, Barghat and Lakhandon where cattle, bullocks, buffaloes, goats and horses are brought in large numbers for sale.

At a distance of three miles from Seoni, on Seoni-Jabalpur Road a big cattle bazar is held every year in the month of *Kwar*. It is famous as *Gujari Bazar*. Cattle from far off places are brought for sale. The bazar lasts for a month.

FORESTRY

The District is endowed with bountiful forest wealth. In 1971-72, a little more than two-thirds, i.e., 37 per cent area of the District was under forests. Sakata, Kurai and Khawasa represent the richest forest tracts of the District.

Forests play a significant role in the economy of the District. They contribute a sizeable share in the income of the District. They open avenues of employment for a large number of inhabitants of the District who are employed in tending forests, collection, exploitation, carting and processing of forest produce and in numerous industries based on forest produce. Agriculture in itself sustains an adequate forest wealth. Agricultural and other livestock draw their sustenance from forest grasses and grazing.

Forest Produce

The major forest produce of the District consists of timber fuelwood, bamboos and *tendu* leaves. *Lakh*, *harra* gum, grass etc, comprise minor forest produce. The following table shows the quantity of principal items of forest produce extracted from the forests of the District during 1962-63 :—

Table No. IV-15

Forest Produce

Item		Volume
Timber		21, 68, 515 cuft.
Fuelwood		44, 81, 193 cuft.
Bamboo		1, 88, 27,000 No. and 654 tons.
<i>Tendu</i> leaves		2, 891 tons
<i>Harra</i>		19 tons
<i>Lakh</i>		12 mds.
Grass		832 cart loads.

Out of these timber, bamboo and *tendu* leaves are mostly supplied to stations out of the District. The teake is the most important timber-tree grown in the forests of the District, the teak of Kurdi and Khawasa being the finest Teake is saleable in all sizes. Bamboos grow in most forests though they are scarce to the west of the Jabalpur-Nagpur road, and are well-grown in the forest to the north-east. A number of articles viz *tatti*, *chap*, *supe*, *tokni*, etc., are made from it. It is also used in the construction of houses.

Tendu, *achar*, *aula* etc. are fruit trees, important to the tribals. *Tendu* leaves are used for making *bidies* *Mahul* leaves are used for making umbrella for use in tribal and rural areas, *pattal* and *dona* and supplied to markets for packing purposes. *Mahu* fruits are used for the manufacture of wine. Its fruit known as *gulli* is used for the extraction of oil, *Kattha* is extracted from *Khair* trees. The bark of *kahua* provides the tanning material. *Lakh* worms are reared on *palaskosam* *ber* and *ghont* trees and *Lakh* in considerable quantity is obtained. *Lakh* yielded by *kosam* is considered to be the best, and fetches the highest price in the market. *Palas* flowers are used for making colours. Indigenous brushes (*kuchis*) are made from its roots. *Chandan* gives fragrant wood and is sold at high prices in the market. It is used for religious purposes for making agarbattis and for extracting oil. *Shisham* timber is hard and valuable and goes in the manufacture of high class furniture. Oil is also extracted from its wood which is used for medicinal purposes. *Khemar* wood very soft and suitable for making wooden toys: *Dhawa*, *Saj* and *kullu* trees yield gum. Gum obtained from *dhawa* is given the highest rating. *Kullu* gum is used in the making of chocolate.

Some trees, besides their utility in other respects have aesthetic value, they provide charm, fascination and colour to the landscape otherwise dull, and drab. *Semar* is notable for the bright scarlet flowers in March when the tree is leafless. *Amaltas* has long bunches of bright yellow fragrant flowers. *Kachnar* has white flowers. *Koha* grows along the banks of streams and rivers. *Kustam*, *kachnar*, *maharukh* and *koha* attract attention as they are in foliage in early April when all other species are leafless.

Grass

A variety of grasses grow as undergrowth in the forests. Notable among them are *duba chinwai*, *gandhila*, *ukaru*, *kandla*, *sukana*, *gunheri*, *lapati gullu*, *samat chhir*, *saina*, *charpara*, *muchhel*, *sum*, and *mua*, are considered to be most useful. They are fed to the cattle. Long and thick grasses are used for the thatching of huts. *Mua* grass usually found all over the District goes in the making of ropes. *Sum* is also used in rope making. Oil is extracted from *sukara* which has medicinal value.

Nurseries

The biggest forest nursery of the District is located near Banjari Tank in Dhuma Range which supplies saplings in large numbers. Small nurseries are located in Seoni and Kurai Ranges.

STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

Provision for making available financial assistance to the cultivators, known as *taccavi* exists in two enactments known as Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 and Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884. Loans under the former Act are meant for effecting improvements in land. Loans under the latter Act are designed to enable the cultivators to tide over difficulties of short duration.

It may be interesting to quote here from the Seoni District Gazetteer:

"There is as a rule little demand for Land Improvement Loans in the District and except during the famines, the amount advanced has not on an average exceeded Rs. 1,500 a year. From the passing of the Land Improvement Loans Act in 1883 upto 1904-05, about Rs. 60,000 were advanced in all. Transactions under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were similarly on a very small scale until 1896 when about Rs. 23,000 were given out in consequence of the failure of crops. During the subsequent famine years advances were made on a large scale more than a lakh being distributed in 1900. During the last two years upto 1905, the amount advanced has again fallen to Rs. 4,000. The total amount of loans made under the Act between 1883 and 1905 was Rs. 3.30 lakhs.... The result of the transactions under both Acts is thus that Government has been repaid nearly the whole of the principal sum advanced but received no interest the amount actually recovered on this account being somewhat less than the principal written off. There are

be no doubt, however, that the loans have materially contributed to save many cultivators from financial ruin and have kept much land under cultivation which would otherwise now be waste".¹

Conditions have materially changed since then. Cultivators in increasing numbers are taking recourse to loans for effecting improvements in land and financing their agricultural operations. The range of purposes of loans has also considerably expanded which may include such items as purchase of tractors fertilizers and insecticides, contour bunding, installation of electric/diesel pumpin sets, horticulture development, etc.

The table given below shows the volume of loans distributed in rural areas in the District :—

Table No. IV-16
Distribution of Loans in Rural Areas
(1,000 Rupees)

Year (1)	Short-term Loans (2)	Medium- Term Loans (3)	Long-Term Loans (4)
1968-69	6,511	1,118	274
1969-70	4,089	3,254	695
1971-72	2,193	1,387	486

FAMINES

A succinct and lucid account of the early famines that gripped the District is available in the Seoni District Gazetteer. The same is recapitulated briefly here.

In 1819, severe distress prevailed during the hot weather and rains. During its continuance, price of grain was eight seers to the rupee against the ordinary price of 60 seers or cheaper and people sold their children and instances were known of human flesh having been consumed. From 1823 to 1827 the District suffered from a succession of short crops due to floods, hail and blight and resulting in the desertion of many villages. In 1833-34, severe distress was prevalent from May to October. It was said that parents frequently sold their children in order to buy food and many persons died of starvation. Grain was imported from Jabalpur and Chhattisgarh and export of grain was prohibited. Advances were granted to the village lessees and a fourth of the land revenue demand was suspended. The distress ceased with the new autumn harvest. The spring crops of 1854-55 were to tally destroyed by rust and this year is spoken of as *Jhrt ki sal* by the people. Scarcity was experienced for four to five month. Tahsildars were instructed to employ the maximum number of people on public works. In 1868 the year of the Bundelkhand famine the monsoon was very heavy in June and July, and ceased pre-maturely, only four inches being received in August and September. Autumn crops were ruined. The spring crops were

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, PP. 98-99.

above the average. Some distress prevailed from February to October, especially among the forest tribes. Small works were undertaken to provide employment and advances were made to land owners in petty amounts. Free food and relief were distributed. A certain amount of mortality also occurred.

Then began a cycle of bad years from 1892-93, but upto 1896, the season was by no means so unfavourable in Seoni as in other districts. The monsoon of 1895-96, though excellent stopped abruptly by the middle of September and only one or two light showers were received during the remainder of the year. The paddy crop was only half of a full harvest and germination of the spring crops was defective. Severe distress existed throughout the year. The death-rate for 1896 was 63 per mille and the birth rate sank to 24. The cropped area decreased by 78,000 acres in the following year. The price of wheat rose from 20 seers in 1894 to 15 in 1895 and 13 in 1896. Forests were thrown open for the collection of edible fruits and roots. A road work was opened. Some paupers were fed. But these measures were not sufficient to cope with the situation.

Again in 1896 the rains were abundant upto the end of August and then ceased abruptly. The autumn harvest failed almost completely and much of the land became too hard to be sown spring crops. Seasonable showers of December and January ensured fair out-turn. There was a small grain riot in Seoni town and some dacoities in Lakhnadon Tahsil. Severe distress prevailed in October, 1896. Three poor houses and two local fund works were opened followed by the start of relief centres to help the starving wanderer. Regular relief works under the Public Works Department were started. In January construction of embankment of fields in ryotwari villages of Lakhnadon Tahsil was managed by the Deputy Commissioner. A number of tanks were constructed or repaired. Some forest roads or other works were undertaken. Advances were made to *malguzars* for works in their villages chiefly in Ugli and Barghat tracts.

Poor houses were opened in Seoni and Lakhnadon in December 189. Village relief was begun in March, 1897, and the number of recipients of this form of relief gradually swelled to 13,600 by the rains. Children's kitchen's were opened in the rains.

The highest number of persons in receipt of all forms of relief was 19,000 or five per cent of the population in September, 1897 and the direct expenditure on famine relief was Rs. 4.5 lakhs. About half of the land revenue was suspended and more than a lakh of rupees were distributed as loans and grants. The death rate for the year was more than 77 per mille while the birth rate was only 22 per mille. The average price of wheat during 1897 was 10 seers per rupee and that of rice 8½ seers.

A long break in the rains in June, 1897 was unfavourable to the paddy crop and on account of the absence of cold weather rains until February, the spring crops were also below the average. The paddy tracts of Ugli and Barghat were severely hit. In the following year the winter months were again rainless and the spring crops were short.

In 1899, the total rainfall was only 23 inches as against the average of 53. The autumn crops with the exception of partial *kodon* failed completely and much of the spring crop area was too dry to be sown. Showers of December and January saved half the wheat crop. The organisation of relief was prompt and efficacious. Due to the return given by wheat and *kodon*, the impact of the famine was not so severe in Seoni as elsewhere in the Province. Six large work under the P.W. D. devoted to the construction and improvement of tanks were opened. A large number of small works were started. A portion of railway embankment was constructed. Grass cutting was undertaken at three centres for providing wages. Scarcity of fodder was not felt. A total of 181 kitchens was opened and in July, 1900 about 24,000 persons were receiving food. Village relief was organised and cooked food distributed. The highest number of persons in receipt of all forms of relief was 45,000 or 12 per cent of the population in January, 1900. The direct expenditure on famine relief was more than Rs. 6½ lakhs. Bulk of the revenue was suspended and more than Rs. two lakhs were distributed as loans and grants. Prices were much on the same level as in the previous famine. In wheat tracts the famine was little felt and it was felt that paddy area would need three years of good harvests to recover its normal prosperity, and in fact small abatements in land revenue had to be made upto 1904.

The record of the famine appears to show that while famine usually occurred due to the pre-mature cessation of monsoon, scarcity occurred often after untimely rains. With the present day transport facilities and development, famine as such has become quite a rare phenomenon now while, scarcity may still often harass the farmers.

CHAPTER V INDUSTRIES

Population Dependent on Industries

In 1951, the territory included in the present District, which formed a part of Chhindwara District, had a population of 4,34,061 persons. The population dependent upon industrial activities for their livelihood was classified under the occupational Class V-production other than cultivation. Against the total population of 4,34,061 persons in 1951, estimated number of workers in this class (Class V) was 8,767.

In the year 1961, three classes, namely, Class III- mining, quarrying, livestock forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation and orchards; Class IV-household industry; and Class V-manufacture other than house-hold industry were treated as equivalent to Class V- production other than cultivation of Census 1951. Total number of workers in all these three classes, in 1961, was enumerated as 16,198 against 8,767 workers in 1951. These constituted about 5.4 per cent of the total number of workers. Separately, 1.9 per cent of workers were in Class III, 3.1 per cent in Class IV and 0.3 per cent in Class V.

A decade later, in 1971, the conceptual change made it still more difficult to arrive at a near comparable figure. Four occupational classes, viz., III, IV V (a) and V (b), which were equivalent to Class V-production other than cultivation of 1951 Census were there. The four classes were equivalent to three classes of 1961, mentioned earlier. By and large they cover up the extent of population dependent for livelihood on industrial activities. In 1971 the proportion of 'workers, engaged in industrial activities to total number of 'Workers' in all occupational classes was 4.5. In absolute figures, the number was 12,411 (10,631 males and 1,780 females) against 3,92,423 non-workers.

Rich in agricultural and forest resources, Seoni is industrially an under-developed district. Only 4.5 per cent of its working force is engaged in this sector. From the foregoing discussion, it may be seen that since 1951, there had been a sizeable increase in the proportion of industrial workers, which increased by 184.8 per cent during 1951-61. In the year 1971, however, the number of workers in this class registered a short fall. The decrease was of the order of 22.7%. It is difficult to assign cogent reasons for this decline in spite of planned efforts for industrial development. Partly the reason may be the changes made at the time of Census 1971 in enumerating 'workers', the definition of which was very liberal in scope in Census 1961.

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

The District was not an important industrial place in the past. Whatever industrial activity was noted, belonged to the traditional agricultural-rural economic-set-up found throughout the country.

Tasar Silk

Tasar silk was formerly woven at Seoni and Piparwani in considerable quantity. The cocoons were grown by the Dhimars in the local forest. But owing to the imports of cheap Manchester goods during the early part of the century the manufacture of local fabrics suffered a set back.

Cotton Weaving

Seoni, Chhapara and Barghat were the principal centres of cotton weaving. The local Koshtas, Katias, Mehras and Koris were the weaving castes. In weaving, imported thread was also used.

Newar

Garpagaris and Mehars used to weave *newar* or thick-tape for mattresses in white or sometimes variegated by red and black lines. This was sold for Rupee one per *seer*.

Dying

Country cloth was dyed at Mungwani, Chhapara, Kahani and other villages. *Al.* or Indian madder was used, but was also supplanted by imported German dye. In Chhapara the *amowa* green cloths were dyed with a mixture of *Al.* and myrobalans. Adegaon was also an important centre for dying. The Chhipas were the printers of designs on coloured cloth. Hemp was woven by Banjaras and sacking material was made at Lakhnadon and Chargaon.

Other Industries

Blacksmithy, carpentry, hemp-weaving, glass-bangles, gold-smithy, iron-implements, skin-tanning and leather work, drum manufacture, etc., were the traditional industrial activity, connected with the socio-economic life of the people in villages. In Seoni also, all these industrial activities were noted in the past. For glass-bangles, Chourai, Patan and Chhapara and for lac-bangles, Seoni, Chhapara, Bakhari and Lakhnadon were important places. Iron implements were made at Piparwani, pottery at Kanhiwara and Pachdhar. Jingers and *Mochis* tanned goat skin, and drums were made by basors.

Till the first decade of the present century, no factory existed at Seoni. However, during this period, the first cotton ginning and pressing machine was imported by an entrepreneur for setting up a factory at Chhapara, which had been a centre of cotton growing tract. Hemp pressing was, however, done at Seoni, Keolari and Ghansore.

POWER

Prior to 1969, the progress in this field was slow. Khaparkheda Power Station in Maharashtra State through its grid supply met the requirements of industrial power in some parts of the District. Besides Seoni proper, the power is also now available at Barghar, Ari and Dharma villages. During the Third Five Year Plan Keolari, Bhoa, Kaniwara, Khera, Sulka, Salkesabhi,

Javnara, Megaon, Lakhnadon and Diguria Chapar villages were covered under the scheme for the extension of power.

After the formation of Seoni Division in the year 1969, steps were taken to speed up the work for the supply of more power.

Seoni, received power from the Grid system. In 1971, work relating to the erection of a sub-station and laying of 132 Kv line from Bhilai-Balaghat-Sarni was in progress. It is connected with Satpura Thermal Power Station, Sarni.

The irrigation needs of the District could not be fully met through tanks or rivers. To meet the growing demand for irrigational facilities for double cropping, the installation of pumps was considered necessary. Prior to 1969 only 126 wells in 30 villages were supplied with power. In 1969-70, however, power was made available to 901 Pumps and total 114 villages were electrified. In the following year, further strides were taken and about 1,200 pumps were supplied power and 130 villages were electrified. By the end of 1974-75 two towns and about 395 villages have been electrified.

As in March 1977, the number of consumers of L. T. industrial power was 517 and of H. T. industrial power, only one. A bulk (5017) of Consumers were of domestic light and fan. The industrial power users works out to about 3.84 per cent of total number of users. The consumption of L. T. and H. T. power in industrial sector respectively, amounted to 3102 thousand kwh and 287 thousand kwh in that year.

The number of electrified villages in the District in March 1976 was 395 which increased to 416 in March 1977. This works out to about 26.08 percent of total number of villages.

INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURE

Minerals

The District continues to be deficient in respect of mineral deposits. In the first decade of this century it was recorded that no mines were worked, nor was there any evidence recorded to show that it contained mineral deposits of commercial importance. Iron was located in Kurai range in the south and in the valley of the Hirri river. Towards Mandla District, coal was discovered. The sands of the Pachdhar and the Bawanthari rivers were washed for gold for insignificant quantities. Inferior kind of mica was met with in Rukhar on Seoni-Nagpur road and nearby hills. Besides, smooth greyish white-chalk near Chhapara on the north bank of the Wainganga, light coloured Amethysts and topazes among the rocks in Adegaon tract, hard stone from quarries of Chakki-Khamaria, Janawarkeda and Khaukra villages were also reported to be available in the District. In the first decade of this century the possibility of Manganese-bearing rocks in the Metamorphic and Crystalline area in the south of the District was also indicated.

According to Census 1961, only about 3% of the total 'workers' engaged in category III-mining, quarrying, etc., were enumerated. In absolute figures, 5,728 'workers' were enumerated in category IV-mining and quarrying. The change in the classification of 'workers' is perhaps responsible to a large extent for the steep fall in the number of workers in this category.

Table No. V.1
Production and value of Minerals, 1962

Mineral	Production (in Metric tons)	Value (in Rs. '000)
Coal	6,737,230	1,53,291
Manganese	223,749	18,909
Iron Ore	1,867,133	13,720
Lime Stone	3,063,815	2,242
Dolomite	319,929	3,372
Bauxite	54,816	693
Fire Clay	7,685	609
China Clay	16,953	147
Quartz & Silica	39,243	216
Ochre	9,412	260
Steatite	2,474	75
Asbestos	11	1
Corruridum	201	105
Felspar	279	2
Diamond	1,131 (Carats)	374

Source : Pocket Compendium of District Statistics, Seoni, 1963.

About 27 quarries were worked during the year 1971, of which 10 produced clay, 12 stone, 3 sand and 2 morum. Employing on an average about 207 persons, the rate of wages paid to quarry-workers, except stone quarry, was Rs. 2 per day in 1971. In stone quarries, the rate was however, Rs. 3 per day. During the year 1971 the extraction of clay amounted to 4,663 tons, stone 22,275 tons, sand 7,895 tons and morum, 1,272 tons. The estimated value of these minerals was Rs. 2,722, Rs. 1,11,357, Rs. 6,339 and Rs. 1,988 respectively.

By the year 1973, the number of quarries increased to 129, with an average daily employment of 246 workers. By 1973 the rate of wages of quarry-workers in sand and morum, increased to Rs. 3 per day, while it was Rs. 3.50 paise per day in clay and Rs. 5 per day in stone quarries. The extraction of clay and sand decreases to 3250 tons and 7,000 tons, respectively. However, the production of stone and morum increased to 27,200 tons and 3,201 tons, respectively. The estimated value of the former two minerals was Rs. 9,750 and Rs. 21,000 respectively, while that of the latter two was Rs. 136,000 and Rs. 9,603, respectively in 1973.

Although 20 years' lease for the extraction of Mica in Khawasa area was granted way back in 1953, but the work could not be started till now. Similarly 20 years' lease was also granted in Kurai Range, South Jatawa for the extraction of Dolomite in 20 acres of area. Except for the year 1970, it remained unexploited till September 1974, when steps were taken to start extraction work.

Manufacture

The District cannot economically sustain any basic or heavy industrial unit, owing to lack of industrial raw materials necessary to support such units. Agricultural raw material and other services constitute the main stay of the economy. The principal crops raised in the District are wheat, rice, minor-millets, oil-seeds, etc., which provide scope for the expansion of agriculture and forest-based industries. As early as in 1907, it was recorded that the first plant for a cotton gining and pressing machine was imported in Seoni for establishing a factory at Chhapara. No other factory existed during this period. For the promotion of large and medium scale industries a provision of Rs. 1.52 lakhs was made in the draft Fifth Plan (1974-79).

Factories under Factories Act, 1948

Paddy is one of the important crops of the District, covering 22.3 per cent of the net sown area in 1960-61. Rice milling was thus an important industry in Seoni. There were six working rice mills in the District in 1959 with an average employment of 54 workers. Bhargava Rice Mills was employing largest number of workers. Rich in forest resources, the economic activity connected with forestry accounted for 19.6 per cent of the working force in category III. mining and quarrying forestry and lime-stone. Felling and cutting of trees had been an important economic activity, engaging about 42.7 per cent of the workers in this category in 1961. Consequently, sawing industry with 9 units formed about 53 per cent of the 17 registered factories in 1959. Out of these units one remained closed during the year. The estimated employment of four saw mills was about 150 workers. Bharat Saw Mills, Seoni had an estimated employment of 100 workers. Gunj-Seoni, Pipriya Done, Seoni and Ugli were the centres of some industrial activity. Besides these, Seoni Distillery with an average employment of 34 workers and a motor vehicle repairing unit also existed at Seoni.

After a decade of stagnation, in spite of various steps taken by the Government to encourage the tempo of industrialization, the number of factories in Seoni declined to 15 in 1970. Of these, 6 were grain mills, 6 units of sawing and planning of wood, one distillery, and one each' paper or paper board manufacturing unit and repairing workshop. Agriculture and forest-based industries continued to form the only sector in which industrial activity of some significance was noted. In the year 1971, a medium scale Vanaspati Ghee Plant was established in the private sector. With an estimated expenditure of

Rs. 56.21 lakhs, the unit provided employment to about 400 workers. The estimated capacity of production was 625 metric tonnes of vegetable oil per month.

The number of registered factories remained almost static when in 1975, only 18 such units were listed under Section 2nd (i) and 33 under Section 85 of the Act.

Small Scale Industries

Small scale industrial units have, however, made a rapid advance during the Plan periods. Where as, there were 171 units at the end of the First Plan, their number increased to 473 by the end of the Second Plan period. Of these 183 were flour mills, 119 rice mills, and 5 engineering units. About 120 mills, combined rice with *Dal* and flour milling. About 45 units were run with power and 22 without it. They provided employment to about 963 workers on an average.

The 'Sixties of the present century witnessed the completion of the Third Plan and subsequent Annual Plans. During this period, the number of small scale units, either registered under the Factories Act or un-registered having an employment of less than 5 workers, increased to 560 by the end of 1969. The number of un-registered units with employment of 5 or more worker i.e., having an employment of 5 to 9 workers: if using power, and 5 to 9 not using power, was 72. Thus in all, 632 units were enumerated in the District in that year. In addition, small scale units in the unorganised sector with an employment of more than 5 workers was 95 in the District.

State Aid to Industries

In the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79), a provision of Rs. 21 lakhs was made for the development of industries. Of these a sum of Rs. 1.52 lakh was proposed to be spent on financial-aid to large and medium scale industries. The remaining amount of Rs. 19.48 lakhs was allocated to small scale industries and 22 industries have been proposed. A Rural Industrial Project has been set-up in 1974 to speed up industrialisation in the District.

State Aid to Industries

For the development of industries all out efforts are being made by the Government and various facilities in the shape of grant of land, water power, machinery, technical, know-how etc, are being offered to them. The number of such registered units with the Department have thus increased from 18 in the beginning of the Sixties to 155 in the year 1973. Under the State Aid to Industries Act, during the five year ending 1973, the Department gave grants-in-aid to three co-operative industrial societies and one pottery industry to the tune of Rs. 2,310. Loans were

1. The small scale units manufacturing more than one item under different classification were enumerated more than once in the Industrial Survey conducted by the Department.

also advanced to a number of units. The following table gives the number of units benefited and amount disbursed:—

Table No. V-2
Loans Advanced to Small Scale Units, 1968-73

Year	No. of Units	Amount Disbursed- (Rs.)
1968-69	33	19,350
1969-70	1	1,000
1970-71	2	13,500
1971-72	9	37,280
1972-73	5	10,500

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Semi-Urban Industrial Estate, Seoni

For industrialisation of the District, the Government have been establishing industrial estates, in which the constructed sheds are hired out, and the plots of land are allotted to industrial units. Other facilities, as stated earlier, are also given to the entrepreneurs. Semi-urban Industrial Estate was also established at Seoni during the year 1970. A plot of land measuring 75.62 acres was acquired for the purpose. Three sheds in five blocks were constructed. They were allotted to three industrial units. The rest of the land was divided into 89 plots. Four plots were leased out to Vanaspati oil extraction industry. By the end of 1972-73, a sum of Rs. 7,40,829 was spent on this Estate.

Rural Work-shed, Chhapara

For erecting a work-shed at Chhapara, 2.14 acres of land was acquired. Divided in 19 plots, two of them were allotted to engineering units, and one to an oil mills. The construction and development work of the shed awaited finalization.

Co-operative and Cottage Units

With a view to encouraging old-time industries like handloom-weaving, printing, leather-goods making, carpentry, toy-making, etc., against the competition from large scale industries manufacturing cheaper goods, these industries were organised on co-operative lines. Early during the 'Sixties of the present century, there were 31 industrial co-operatives with a membership of 718. The paid-up share capital amounts to Rs. 23,731. Seven of these societies received Rs. 74,295 as working capital.

In the year 1970-71, five industrial co-operatives had a total membership of 101, and a share capital of Rs. 54,346. Government extended loan worth

Rs. 23,351 during the year. By the year 1972-73, these five societies had a membership of 161 and a working capital of Rs. 13,843. Government granted Rs. 29,912 as loan. Brass Utensil Workers' Co-operative Societies of Seoni and Adegaon were the two societies registered in 1959. Both of these societies are not active presently. With a view of reviving Adegaon society, the State Government sanctioned grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 360 in 1972-73. Sarvodaya Khadi Industries Co-operative Society, Seoni was registered in 1960. The production and sale figures of the society are given below :—

Table No. V-3
Production and Sale of Khadi

Year	Production	Purchased		Sale (Rs.)
		Kachcha	Pakka	
1969-70	18281	1,280	15,674	40,331
1970-71	19,920	2,161	34,203	44,625
1971-72	1,400	2,093	38,244	55,510
1972-73	1,126	1,952	40,867	50,568

The society sustained a loss of Rs. 1,142 during the year ending 30th June 1973. The accumulated loss amounted to Rs. 19,021 in 1973.

Cottage Industries

The principal cottage industries of Seoni District are the manufacture of combs, bangles and pottery. For the production of handloom cloth, 472 loom and 15 power-looms were at work during the early Sixties of the present century.

It is estimated that about 2,000 persons were engaged in rope-making, hand-grinding and oil-extraction through indigenous *ghanis*. These units were concentrated largely at Seoni, Barghat, Kewalari, Kanhi Bara, Ghansaur, Lakhnadon, Chhapara, etc. of the 487 hand-looms, 40 were power-looms in the year 1973. Thirty-three of these power-looms were working in the co-operative sector.

Industrial Arts

Newar Weaving

One of the traditional industry of the area had been *newar* weaving for mattresses in the past. This used to be variegated by red and black lines by Garpagaris and Mehras. It used to fetch good price in the market. The rate was a rupee per *seer* of *newar* during the first decade of the century. This industry has now fallen into decay owing to competition and lack of protection.

Dying and Printing

Dying with *al* or madder in different colours had been an important handicraft. To a large extent, it was supplanted with imported German dye in the

past. The *amova*, green cloths were dyed with a mixture of *al* and myrobalans. Adegaon and Chhapara are still important centres of dying and printing. By and large, this industry has lost its importance because of cheap and printed mill-made cloth. In order to sustain this traditional industry, the Government have been granting funds to the society at Chhapara.

Utensils

Engraving brass utensils with floral patterns and ornamentation of earthen vessels has been significant craft of the area. To preserve this art, the Government have been encouraging the organisation of this industry on co-operative lines. In order to sustain these units grants-in-aid is given to the societies for the purpose. Adegaon Co-operative Society has been in receipt of regular financial aid from the Government.

Toy-making

With the availability of raw material locally, toy-making is assuming much importance now. Toys of wooden, paper-pulp and leather are manufactured here. A production-cum-training centre was proposed to be set-up. A few training centres of carpentry, black-smithy, tailoring are also being run by the Government in some Development Blocks.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

Owing to non-availability of important minerals like coal, manganese iron-ore and power in sufficient quantity, heavy industries are not likely to develop at Seoni. Though the District had comparatively small quantities of deposits of coal, mica, manganese, crystalline, lime-stone, bauxite, quartz and silica, etc., it promises to sustain a few smaller units based on these minerals.

Predominantly an agricultural and forest area, Seoni provides for the expansion and establishment of agriculture or forest-based units. Based on the availability of raw material, the potential industries which can function economically are outlined as under :—

Agriculture Based Units

Paddy, wheat, oil-seed, pulses and gram are important crops of the District. In the year 1961-62, of the total acreage under crops, 7,48,772 acres was under food-crops and 1,44,054 acres under non-food crops. A decade later in 1971-72, the area under food-grains was 214.4 thousand hectares, and oil-seeds 15.0 thousand hectares. The production of food crops and non-food crops was 348.6 thousand tonnes and 63.8 thousand tonnes in that year. It is thus apparent from the above that the District economy is overwhelmingly based on agriculture.

Consequently, prospects for the establishment and further expansion of such industrial units based on agricultural produce are rated high. Rice-bran oil-mills could be established with an estimated availability of 5,000 tonnes of rice-bran annually. With an estimated availability of 1,250 tonnes of maize for

starch and purpural factory: 2,500 tons of wheat bran for purpural chemical factory; 5,000 tons of wheat and 10,000 tons of wheat and gram for roller-floor mills; 35,000 tons of wheat-bran for straw-board units and 7,500 bales of cotton for cotton, ginning and pressing factory, these units could be started at Seoni.

Further expansion or establishment of small-scale units such as rice-mills, *dal* mills, flour mills, surgical cotton lint industry, insulation-brick manufacturing unit, cotton seed-oil units, etc., could also be started in the District.

Industries Based on Forest Products

According to Census 1961, about 34 per cent or approximately, one-third of the District area is covered under forests. Covering an area of 1,135.6 sq. miles, teak (*tictona grandis*) is most important timber tree found in the forest of Seoni. The teak of *Kurai* and *Khawasa* is of finest quality. In the year 1961-62 the timber productions was about 28,071 cft. Fuel-wood amounting to 93,335 cft. was also produced during that year.

Thus, medium or small scale industries based on forest products could be established in the District, with the availability of about one lakh cft. of timber wood from the forests a chip-board factory could be started in Seoni with a capacity to produce 15 lakh sq. metres of Chip-board annually. A 1,500 tons capacity paper-pulp plant could also be established here.

Roughly about 120 thousand cft. wood could be procured from the forests. Thus, the prospects of establishment of a tissue-paper manufacturing unit, a railway slippers unit and resin-oil units are rated high.

Cottage Units

Apart from these, combs, bangles, pottery industry could form the principal cottage industries. Further expansion and establishment of handloom cloth, rope-making, hand-mills, oil-*ghanis* incensed-sticks, met-weaving, cane-work, match factory, bidi-rolling industry could be encouraged in this sector.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYER'S ORGANISATIONS

With the absence of large industrial establishments, there was almost no scope for trade unionism in the District. As such, till the year 1967, there was no registered labour organisation. In that year the transport workers organised themselves for the first time into Rashtriya Motor Karmchari Congress. After about 6 years, another trade union also came into being. The Young India Industrial Road Building and Madhya Pradesh Work Charge Karmchari Sangh were organised and registered in 1973. In the year 1973, the former union had 812 and the later 250 workers as members.

WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

Wedded to the policy of development and protection of labour, the new State declared its policy in 1957. Since then with the expansion of industries the labour policy of the State, underwent a series of amendments, enlarging the

scope of its policy towards labour. The new labour policy included various measures for their overall development, improvement in their wages, promotion of healthy trade union movement and industrial peace, etc. For the purpose, various statutory measures were adopted which included the enactment or extension of State or Central legislations. From time-to-time these statutory measures were amended so as to enlarge their scope and coverage.

As in 1971, 21 Central labour legislations and 17 State legislations were in force in the State. The important Central legislations were, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Factories Act, 1948, The Workmens' Compensation Act, 1923, The Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, etc. Of the State statutory measures, various Central acts were adopted from time-to-time. The Madhya Pradesh Shops and Establishments Act, 1958, M. P. Industrial Relations Act, 1960, were also introduced by the State which were amended from time-to-time. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, covers those unorganised small industries which are not covered by the Industrial Relations Act.

Factories Act, 1948

This Act is a comprehensive legislation designed to protect and improve the working conditions in factories. Under this Act, the working hours in factories regulations regarding age of workers, rest periods, resting places, protection of machinery, provision of canteens and hygienic conditions, etc., are covered. Provisions under this Act are applicable to all such manufacturing industrial establishments which employ 10 workers or more with power and 20 workers or more without power. It has already been seen that there were 15 factories in Seoni, coming under the purview of this Act in 1970.

Workmens' Compensation Act, 1948

The Workmens' Compensation Act, 1923, is applicable to such centres and establishments, where Employees State Insurance Scheme is not extended. Hence in Seoni, where the said scheme is not applicable, this Act governs the payment of compensation to workers for accidents or injuries resulting in completion of partial disablement and death while on duty.

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

This Act, which is a Central legislation is applicable to unorganised or sweated industries as specified in the Schedule to the Act, Besides fixing minimum wages in rice, *Jowar*, *dal*, *bidi*-making, oil-manufacturing, stone-breaking lac-industries, public motor transport, leather manufactures, the Madhya Pradesh Government have also fixed minimum wages for workers in agriculture.

Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952

The Employees' Provident Fund Act covered nine industrial units in Seoni district in 1973 against 4 in 1972. It is estimated that about 568 labourers received benefits under the provisions of this Act in 1973 against 524 in the previous year.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Seoni District came into existence in the year 1956 as a result of reorganisation of States. Prior to this, it was a part of the Chhindwara District. There are only two tahsils in the District. The Lakhnadon tahsil of the District is entirely rural and the Seoni tahsil contains the only town of the District. Consequently, the District is backward in banking, trade and commerce.

History of Indigenous Banking

In the 19th century, the landlords or *malgujars*, substantial cultivators the *mahajans* or *sahukars* and itinerant money-lenders were the principal indigenous financiers in rural areas of the District. The urban areas were served mainly by the professional money-lenders, known as *seths* or *mahajans*. In the first decade of 20th century money-lenders of Seoni District were principally Parwar and Marwari-Banias and a few Kayasthas. Among them Seth Puran Sao Parwar Bania was the wealthiest banker of the District. Rai Bahadur Lala Onkardas, Agrawal Bania, Seth Sriram Sao, Parwar Bania, Lala Murlidhar Khazanohi, a Dhusar Bania, were the leading money-lenders of Seoni and several other Parwar Banias were transacting with considerable wealth. The leading money-lenders of other castes were Bhopal Rao, (a Maratha) of Seoni, Dadu Bakhatawar Singh (a Kayastha) of Seoni, Rupchand, (a Kanaujia Brahman) of Mungwani and Khet Singh (a Gujar) of Khamaria in Lakhnadon tahsil and Gulab Chand (a Parwar Bania) of Chhapara.¹

Thus, the professional money-lenders were the main agency meeting the credit requirements in the District. Loans were often contracted and paid for not in money but in commodities also and exorbitant rates of interest were common. The Deputy Commissioner wrote in 1902 about the money-lenders in the District thus, "The methods of money-lending class have undergone no change. usurious contracts are common as ever as they were, exorbitant rates of interests are general as a rule....."²

The rates of interest on private loans were from 6 to 12 per cent in the case of large sums of Rs. 1,000 or more and on good security. Occasionally the rates of interest were lowered to 3 to 4 per cent during the currency of a loan if security was unimpeachable, tenants in ordinary circumstances had usually to pay 24 per cent for cash loans. In the case of loans for seed grains, the average rate of interest was 25 per cent for the spring and 50 percent for the autumn crops. Advances of grain for food while the crops are in ground were called

Khoti. The autumn grains *Kodon* and *Kutki* were usually borrowed in this manner and the interest charged on such loans was 50 per cent.¹ During the period of agricultural depression the credit of tenants stood at a low ebb and the practice of *khoti* or selling the crop before harvest sprang up. In such transactions the loans made in cash was repaid in grain at low value after the harvest and the contracts were always made to the advantage of the lender who reaped profit of about 50 per cent.²

Indebtedness

A natural corollary of indigenous finance has been the indebtedness in rural area, which proverbially overshadowed an average cultivator's life. In the year 1900 the Settlement Officer writing on this subject said "A number of Hindu ryots and with few exceptions the Gonds sow their own seeds, but a great man cultivators depend solely upon borrowing for this purpose. This pernicious system of borrowing undoubtedly tells heavily upon the resources of poor tenants who find it almost impossible to remain out of debt. There are however some tenants who, though they are in a position to sow their own seed yet to please their land-lord or to keep up their connection with the money-lender generally borrow".³

In 1902, the Deputy Commissioner estimated that not less than 90 per cent of the tenants were indebted in Seoni District.⁴ But as a rule there was little demand for Government loans in the District, and except during the famines the amount advanced for Land Improvement loans had not on an average exceeded Rs. 1,500 a year in the closing decade of the 19th century. In 1897, about Rs. 20,000 were given out in loans mainly to *malgujars*.⁵ From the time when Land Improvement Loans Act was enacted in 1883 up to 1904-05, in all about Rs. 60,000 were advanced and Rs. 8,000 were recovered in interest. Transactions under the Agriculturists Loans Act were similarly on a very small scale until 1896, when about Rs. 23,000 were advanced due to failure of crops. During the subsequent famine years, advances were made on a large scale and more than a lakh of rupees were distributed in the year 1900. Between 1903 and 1905 the amount advanced had fallen again to Rs. 4,000. The total advances for twenty two years, from 1883 to 1905, were nearly Rs. 23 lakhs. ⁶ During the famines, these loans saved many cultivators from financial ruin.

1. *ibid.* p. 99.

2. *ibid.* p. 100.

3. *ibid.*

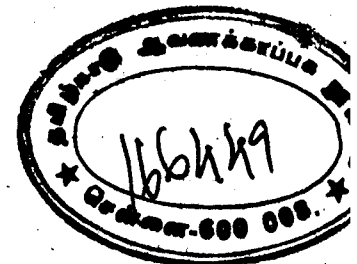
4. *ibid.* p. 103.

5. *ibid.* p. 100.

6. *ibid.*

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, pp. 100-101.

2. *ibid.* p. 100.



The Central Provinces Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee conducted a sample survey in 1929-30 in Seoni District¹. The Committee estimated that the total agricultural indebtedness of the District as a whole was of Rs. 64,30,574. Of these, total *Malgajari* debts were of Rs. 25,79,093 and tenant's debts were Rs. 38,51,511. The incidence of debt for tenants represented an average of about Rs. 5½ per acre or about seven times the rent or about Rs. 114 per head. *Mahajans* or money-lenders were the main source of agricultural finance in the District. Of the total debts Rs. 50,06,988 were owed to *mahajans*, Rs. 9,54,725 to Government, Rs. 4,10,154 to landlords, and Rs. 58,707 to the Co-operative Credit Bank. The purpose for which these various loans were borrowed are stated to be as follows:—

Purpose	Per cent
1. Old debts	19.82
2. Marriages	10.39
3. Maintenance, etc.	0.63
4. Payment of rents or revenue	3.43
5. Cultivating expenses including seeds, bullocks, etc.	31.43
6. Improved agricultural implements	1.24
7. Digging wells and embanking fields.	6.24
8. Capital spent in land	12.66
9. Litigation.	4.16
10. Business	4.00

The financial customs in this district present no features strikingly different from those prevailing elsewhere. The *mahajans* or money-lenders had a predominant position as a financier in the District.

GENERAL CREDIT FACILITIES AVAILABLE

The credit needs of the Districts' economy are met by both the organised and unorganised sectors. The organised sector consists of joint-stock banks, co-operative banks and credit societies and some other specialised financial institutions. The unorganised market is largely made-up of indigenous money-lenders.

Registered Money-lenders

Shortage of institutional credit resulted in small traders, agriculturists and other needy persons approaching the money-lenders. In rural areas big cultivators, landlords and village merchants are the chief sources of money-lending. Generally, the trading class is engaged in this profession in the District.

In the post-Independence period, various legislative measures were promulgated to regulate the business of the money-lenders. But very few of them got themselves registered. Tahsil wise number of registered money-lenders in the District is given in the Table below:—

Table No. VI-1
Registered Money-lenders in the District

Year	Seoni Tahsil	Lakhnadon Tahsil
1967-68	141	205
1969-70	151	224
1971-72	146	227
1973-74	150	218
1974-75	172	224

Source :— District Registrar, Seoni.

Joint Stock Banks

These banks transact all type of banking business, accept deposits from general public and lend money to traders, depositors, agriculturists and industrial units. Commercial banks generally finance to traders against transport receipts of the local produce and also lend money on the security of the goods in the warehousing centres and godowns. These banks are generally concentrated at places of agricultural marketing and trade, which are mainly the characteristics of urban or semi-urban centres in the District. But after the nationalisation of 14 major commercial banks, these are keen to serve the rural areas, which do not have banking facilities.

Spread of Banking

Branch Expansion

There were only two bank offices in the District at the end of 1967. During this year bank office of State Bank of India (1954) and Punjab National Bank (1966) were functioning at Seoni town. The banking activities in this District increased after 1968 and particularly after nationalisation of bank in 1969. By the end of September, 1970, two banking offices of State Bank of India and Central Bank of India were opened at Chhapara (1970) and Lakhnadon, respectively. With the opening of four more bank offices, two of State Bank of India at Barghat (1972) and Ghanore, (1972) two offices of Central Bank of India at Seoni and Keolari, by the end of December, 1972, the number of Bank offices in Seoni District increased to eight. Of these four bank offices belong to State Bank of India, three to Central Bank of India and one to Punjab National Bank. Apart from these, Central Co-operative Bank is also transacting banking business in the District.

¹ Central Provinces Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee 1929-30, Vol. II, pp 644-646.

Average Population per Banking Office

By the end of December, 1967 average population per banking office in Seoni District was 3,03,000, while the State average was 1,31,000. With the spread of banking, the average population per banking office in the District was reduced to 2,12,000. At the same time the State average was also reduced to 1,16,000 persons per banking office at the end of June, 1969. After the nationalisation of banks, branch expansion activities gained momentum and the average population per banking office in the District was again reduced to 1,63,000 by the end of September, 1970, and by the end of July, 1972 it further decreased to 95,000 persons per banking office in Seoni District. This shows that the banking facilities available in the District showed considerable improvement during the short span of five years.

As at the end of September, 1970 Seoni District was ranked 314 in average population per banking office in district-wise data arranged in ascending order of population served.

Volume of Business

Thus, the working of the banks during the past few years has shown a significant progress in all the important fields of activities viz., branch expansion deposits and advances and finances to priority sectors etc. After the nationalisation, improved performance of banks in their operations is also reflected in the spread of banking facilities in rural areas of the District. Total number of offices, deposits and advances of banks in Seoni District for the last three years are given in the Table below—

Table No. VI-2

Deposits and Advances reported by the Banks in Seoni District

(Amount in lakhs Rs.)

Year	Total No. of Offices	Deposits	Advances
1970 (end of December)	4	43	26
1971 (end of June) ..	4	55	30
1972 (end of June) ..	7	78	36

Source:— Reserve Bank of India Bulletins.

Deposits

Total deposits of scheduled commercial banks in Seoni District amounted to Rs. 43 lakhs as of December, 1970. The deposit mobilisation drives were

conducted in the District and the deposits increased to Rs. 55 lakhs in June, 1971 and to Rs. 78 lakhs in June, 1972. The bulk of the deposits, that is Rs. 75 lakhs in June, 1972 was concentrated at Seoni town while deposits at other centres amounted to Rs. 3 lakhs only.

Advances

The bank advances in Seoni District stood at Rs. 26 lakhs in December 1970. At the end of June, 1971, bank advances in the District totalled Rs. 30 lakhs and they further increased to Rs. 36 lakhs at the end of June, 1972. The lion's share of advances were given in Seoni town. Thus, at the end of June, 1972 bank advances in Seoni town total Rs. 35 lakhs, while advances at other centres totalled Rs. 1 lakh only.

Population-wise Distribution

In all, 7 bank offices were functioning in the District at the end of June, 1972. Out of these, 4 offices were at rural centres and 3 were at semi-urban centres. Bank deposits and advances at rural centres totalled Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh, respectively. While at semi-urban centres deposits and advances were reported to be Rs. 76 lakhs and Rs. 35 lakhs, respectively. It is apparent that banking activities in Seoni District were highly concentrated in urban areas. Rural areas were poorly served before nationalisation of banks.

Finances to minor irrigation projects

Central Bank of India has been selected for a World Bank project in the District. Under this project Rs. 2.50 lakhs were advanced till August, 1974 by Lakhnadon branch of the Bank, for construction and repair of wells, installation of electric and diesel pump sets, pipe-line and other land development works. Apart from this, Seoni branch of the Bank also advanced loans of Rs. 3.16 lakhs to 53 cultivators in Seoni and Barghat Development blocks for this purpose. Targets are fixed for this scheme and it is to be completed in three years.

Small Business finance

The various schemes of small business finance put into operation by the banks covered the entire spectrum of retail trade and individuals engaged in specialised professions such as surgeons, technical persons and other small businesses. Under such schemes loans were advanced on easy instalments to Basors, Panwalas, shoemakers, Barber and cycle repairers by the Keolari branch of Central Bank of India. Lakhnadon branch of the Bank distributed loans of Rs. 66,000 to professionals, small industries, small traders and other unemployed persons. These activities are gathering momentum in the District.

Outstanding Credit

As at the end of June, 1972, total outstanding credit of scheduled commercial banks was reported to be Rs. 38.07 lakhs, out of which Rs. 16 lakhs were reported to be in Agriculture and allied activities, Rs. 1.46 lakhs in trade, Rs. 1.80 lakhs in personal accounts and Rs. 17.86 lakhs were reported to be in all other occupations. Total outstanding credit in industries was reported to be Rs. 95,000 (Rs. 39,000 in manufacturing, Rs. 31,000 in transport and Rs. 25,000 in other industries) of which Rs. 39,000 were reported in small scale industries.

Lead Bank Scheme

Under this scheme Central Bank of India was designated as a Lead Bank in the District with the responsibility for taking the leading role in surveying the credit needs in the development of branch banking and extension of credit facilities in the District. The Lead Bank is expected to act as a conserium leader for opening branches as well as for meeting credit needs. It will also invoke the co-operation of other banks operating in the District.

The nationalisation of banks appears to have raised expectations of the cultivators in regard to the availability of credit on reasonable terms. The banks are expected to play very important and more effective role in the economic reconstruction of the rural areas in the District.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT

The District is served with all the branches of co-operative credit, viz., Co-operative Central Bank, Land Development Bank and Co-operative Credit Societies.

Co-operative Credit Societies

Primary Co-operative Credit Society is the basic unit in the short term credit structure at village level. Activities of these Societies were formerly confined chiefly to provide short and middle term loans to their producer members for productive purposes. But in recent years, these Societies also took the work of distributing fertilisers, seeds and manure on agency basis, though depositing and advancing loans constitute the primary functions. These societies may be grouped in two types Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies.

Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies

The objects of primary agricultural co-operative credit societies include the borrowing of funds from members and others to be utilised for advancing loans to members. Apart from this these societies are also working as agent for the joint sale of agricultural produce and joint purchase of agricultural and domestic requirements of their members. In 1965-66 almost all the 1590 villages of the District were covered by these societies. The progress of

Agricultural Credit Societies in Seoni District for the last few years is given in the table below :—

Table No.VI-3
Agricultural Credit Societies in the District
(Amount in Lakh Rs.)

Year	No. of Societies	No. of Members	Share Capital	Working Capital	Loans advanced	Loans outstanding
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1965-66	292	27,682	8.18	74.20	..	..
1967-68	175	34,343	16.86	113.75	42.71	89.88
1968-69	153	33,606	19.39	140.52	76.29	106.56
1969-70	153	33,755	24.76	162.12	73.43	123.60
1970-71	153	33,162	26.75	178.09	35.80	131.69
1971-72	153	33,384	28.00	174.50	31.46	126.13
1972-73	153	34,989	30.34	219.69	67.84	151.12
1973-74	153	36,238	32.02	228.05	50.87	141.87

The facts given above indicate that co-operative credit societies made a considerable progress in the District. They are achieving the objects of promoting mobilisation of capital and pooling rural savings and providing bulk of funds' needs by the cultivators for productive purposes. There were 292 societies in the District with a membership of 27,682 in 1965-66. Share Capital and working capital of these societies in 1965-66 stood at Rs.8.18 lakhs and Rs.74.20 lakhs. To make them more effective in operation, efforts were made to re-organize these societies in more sizeable and better organised societies in 1966-67. This had resulted in reducing the number of these societies from 292 in 1965-66 to 153 in 1968-69, but with increased membership and capital. Thus, in 1971-72 number of societies in the District remained unchanged at 153, but the membership, share capital and working capital increased to 33,864, Rs.28.00 lakhs and Rs.174.50 lakhs, respectively.

Seoni District Co-operative Central Bank Limited, Seoni

Seoni District Co-operative Central Bank was established in 1912, with headquarters at Seoni. During the first year of establishment in 1912-13, it had only 8 primary agricultural credit societies affiliated to it, with 91 members. During this year share capital of the Bank was Rs.7,825 and loans of Rs.5,247 were advanced. Since then the Bank made rapid progress and in 1930-31 its share capital and advances increased to Rs.37,625 and Rs.1,84,513, respectively. During this year number of affiliated societies and their membership also increased to 143 and 2,154, respectively. In 1947-48 the number of affiliated societies and their membership were 104 and 814, respectively. During this year Rs.61,564 were advanced by the Bank.

In 1961 a branch office of the Bank opened at Barghat. Lakhnadon and Keolari branches were started in 1964. In 1965 four more branches were opened

Source.—Seoni District Co-operative Central Bank, Seoni.

at Ghansore, Kurai, Chhapara and Seoni. Ugali and Gangura branches were started in 1967 and Ghanaura branch in 1968. In 1969 two more branches were started at Ghooma and Kanhiwada. Thus, in 1974, 12 branch offices are functioning in the District. Area of operation of the Bank is whole of the Seoni District. In 1974, membership of the co-operative credit societies affiliated to the Bank was 35,000. During this year share capital and working capital of the Bank stood at Rs.30.27 lakhs and Rs.153.82 lakhs, respectively. The details of the working and progress of the Bank are given in the Table below :—

Table No. VI-4
Working of the Seoni District Co-operative Central Bank, Seoni
(Amount in Lakh Rs.)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Membership No.	..	..	440	441	442
Share Capital	25.58	26.60	27.28	29.13	30.27
Deposits	21.65	24.66	19.09	26.92	34.85
Working Capital	137.45	142.22	144.00	165.53	153.82
Loans advanced to societies	88.96	60.96	48.83	99.70	56.92
Loans outstanding against societies	117.50	129.00	121.73	147.25	131.02

Source.—Seoni District Co-operative Central Bank Limited, Seoni.

The Bank provides short-term and mid-term loans to cultivators and member-societies and also transacts normal banking business in the District. During the year 1971-72, the Bank advanced total loans of Rs. 48.83 lakhs to its member societies. Apart from this, fertilisers of Rs. 4.17 lakhs, Chemicals of Rs. 0.02 lakhs and improved seeds of Rs. 0.74 lakhs were advanced to members. During 1973-74 total loans of Rs. 131.02 lakhs were outstanding of which Rs. 63.60 lakhs were short-term loans, Rs. 61.99 lakhs were middle-term loans and Rs. 5.43 lakhs were other outstanding loans.

District Co-operative Land Development Bank Limited, Seoni

The District Co-operative Land Development Bank Limited, Seoni was established in 1967, with headquarters at Seoni. The area of operation of this Bank is whole of the Seoni District. The Bank has two branches at Lakhnadon (1968) and Keolari (1972). At the time of establishment, its membership was 262, which increased to 7,122 by the end of June, 1972. As at the end of June, 1972 share capital and working capital of the Bank stood at Rs. 1.82 lakh and Rs. 29.53 lakhs, respectively. The progress of the Bank since its inception is given in the Table below,—

Table No. VI-5
Progress of District Co-operative Land Development Bank, Seoni

Particulars	1967-68	1969-70	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Total Membership	262	3,389	7,122	8,748	10,030
Share Capital	8,672	87,156	1,81,694	3,68,233	4,37,899
Reserves	9,495	9,701	9,965	9,441	9,441
Loans outstanding	1,20,714	13,61,642	26,71,692	44,34,932	54,14,000

Source:—District Co-operative Land Development Bank, Seoni.

The Bank provides long and middle-term loans to cultivators for capital expenditure of permanent nature, to be incurred primarily on agricultural operations. In 1972-73 loans advanced by the Bank stood at Rs. 10.73 lakhs. Loans were provided mainly for construction of wells, purchasing of oil-engines, pump-sets, tractors, and for other land improvement works.

OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Small Saving Schemes

Life Insurance and Post-office Saving Schemes are the other organisations attracting and mobilising the savings in the District. The Small Saving Schemes which continued their operations in the District are (1) Post-office Savings Bank Account, (2) 12 years National Plan Certificates, (3) 10 years Treasury Saving Deposits, (4) 15 years Annuity Certificates and (5) Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme. The gross and net deposits in the said Schemes from 1967-68 to 1971-72 are given in the Table below :—

Table No. VI-6
Small Saving Schemes in Seoni District
(Amount in lakh Rs.)

Year	Progressive Totals		Yearly Net Target
	Gross	Net	
1967-68	15,76,994	1,41,659	4 lakh
1968-69	18,19,557	4,03,447	5 lakh
1969-70	26,83,169	9,19,787	5 lakh
1970-71	22,69,593	5,53,284	6 lakh
1971-72	22,95,608	4,06,136	7 lakh
1972-73	28,30,802	7,83,138	7 lakh
1973-74	30,03,377	6,6,755	6,19 lakh

Source:—Regional Director, National Savings, Indore.

The small saving per capita at the 1971 population was Rs. 1.60 approximately in Seoni District.

Life Insurance

Life Insurance is the best source of attracting the savings of public with risk covering. A branch office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India is functioning at Seoni. Area of operation of the branch is whole of the Seoni District. The business figures of life insurance business in Seoni District are given in the Table below :—

Table No. VI-7
Life Insurance in Seoni District
(Amount in lakh Rs.)

Year	No. of Policies	Sum Insured
1969-70	1,334	82.13
1970-71	1,626	115.55
1971-72	1,962	199.97
1972-73	2,970	266.00
1973-74	2,760	251.00
1974-75	3,450	310.00

Source:—Branch Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Seoni.

Madhya Pradesh State Financial Corporation

There is no Stock Exchange in Seoni District. However, the District is being served by the Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation (Indore). As on 31st March 1972, the Corporation sanctioned loans of Rs. 1.67 lakhs to 4 small scale units and Rs. 4.50 lakhs to 2 other industries. The amount disbursed on that date was Rs. 0.42 lakh to one small scale industry and Rs. 4.42 lakhs to one other industry.

Ware housing

The Ware housing centre of the Madhya Pradesh Ware-housing Corporation was opened at Lakhnadon in January, 1973. The storage in Lakhnadon Centre was 1,385 Qts. in 1973-74. The Centre was closed in July, 1973.

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

As far as records are available there was no local currency or any system of coinage in Seoni District. It seems that the coinage system of the British India was prevalent in this District.

Decimal Coinage

A landmark in the history of currency was the introduction of decimal coinage system of currency in 1957. Though the system was attended by an initial difficulty in the transitional period, but later on it became popular. The system has further been assisted by the introduction of metric system of weights and measures on a uniform basis.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Old Time Trade

At the end of the 19th century, the trade of this District mainly comprised of agricultural and forest produce and commodities of daily use. The narrow gauge Satpura extension of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was opened in 1904. Prior to the construction of the railway, the trade of the District was almost entirely along the Great Northern Road. This was, for a time, the most important road in India, as the mails from Bombay to Calcutta were carried from Nagpur to Jabalpur. Seoni, Chhapara and Lakhnadon were the important towns situated on this road. Produce of the area, south of Chhapara, was going to Kamptee and from the north of the Lakhnadon tahsil to Jabalpur. Later on the trade was diverted to railway and the importance of Kamptee as a depot for the collection of produce from the District had declined¹.

1. *ibid.*, pp. 121-23.

Trading Centres

Periodical fairs and markets were the important gathering places and inevitable part of the socio-economic life of the District. In 1907, two annual fairs of some importance were held at Mundara and Chhapara. Though the Chhapara fair was mainly a religious fair but a large trade in cattle, cloth and other articles was carried out. Many villages had a periodical market at which commodities were sold and purchased. In 1907, weekly markets were held at 48 villages in the District, of which 25 were in Seoni tahsil and 23 in Lakhnadon tahsil. Barghat Bazar was an important centre for the distribution of rice grown in surrounding area. Cattle was also sold here. The Budhawari market of Seoni town was the largest in the District and those next in importance were Kanhiwara, Gopalganj, Jam, Kurai, Khawasa and Keolari. Khaira market near Palari railway station became important after the construction of railway¹. The centre of timber trade was at Kurai, to which wholesale dealers were coming from Kamptee to make purchases².

Trading Classes

Grain for export was not usually brought to the weekly bazars, but retail dealers called *Ladiyas* or *Kuchis* were collecting it from cultivators and were bringing it to the towns for sale to the merchants, who used to export their purchase³. During this period the trade in grain and ghee was principally in the hands of Agrawal and Parwar Banias and there were one or two shops of *Cutchi Muhammadans*⁴. Two agencies of European firms were established in Seoni for the purchase of grain for export. The centre of timber trade was at Kurai and Muhammadan dealers used to come there from Kamptee to make purchases. Cloth, spices and groceries were imported by Bania traders and Boharas dealt in copper and hardware goods. Kerosine oil was imported by a European firm.

Exports

In 1907, wheat was the principal export of the District, being sent to Bombay for the foreign trade. A considerable quantity of rice was also exported to Chhindwara and Narmada valley. Of pulses gram, *masur* and *thura* were exported to Bombay. *Til* was the principal oilseed exported and some quantity of *Jagani* and *gulli* or the seeds of *mahua* were also sent away. The oil of *karar*, a prickly variety of *Kusum*, was exported in small quantities. During this period cotton was sent to Nagpur in unpressed state and *san-hemp* was sent to Jabalpur and Calcutta. *Ghee* was sent to Kamptee and from there to Berar, Calcutta and Bombay. The export of forest produce were teak, sal, bijasal, *bambos*, *mahua* oil, lac, *chironjee* and myrabolans, *ghee*, cotton, hides and horns. Timber and bamboos, horns and hides were sent to Kamptee and Nagpur.

1. *ibid* pp.117-118

2. Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. XXII, 1908, P. 172

3. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, P.117.

4. Imperial Gazetteer of India, vol. xxii, 1908 P. 172

Imports

During this period all the usual articles were imported. Salt was imported from Ahmadabad and Bombay. Sugar and *gur* were obtained from Northern India and Chhindwara. Cotton piece-goods were brought from Bombay and Calcutta. White thread was obtained from Nagpur, Hinganghat and Badnera mills and coloured thread from Bombay. Caps, decorated with lac, were obtained from Delhi, Tasar Silk from Bhagalpur and woollen cloth from Amritsar. Brass vessels were imported from Northern India and Poona. Gold, Silver and Iron were obtained from Bombay. Turmeric was obtained from Bombay and Nagpur, oranges and plantains from Nagpur, and potatoes from Jabalpur and Chhindwara. Rice was brought to Barghat bazar from the adjoining tracts of Mandla and Balaghat Districts. Manufactured tobacco was obtained from Gaya and Darbhanga (Bengal) and snuff from Benaras. Superior country made shoes were brought from Calcutta and Delhi. Betel-leaves, turmeric and catechu were brought from surrounding Districts.

Persons Engaged in Trade and Commerce

According to 1961 Census, 1.5 per cent, of the district's working force, were engaged in trade and commerce. Of the two tahsils Lakhnadon tahsil is entirely rural and participation in trade and commerce was below district average in Lakhnadon tahsil and higher in Seoni tahsil. Of the workers in trade and commerce, only 5 per cent were in wholesale trade mostly in cereals and pulses. In a 91.8 per cent workers in trade and commerce were in retail trade. Of the workers in retail trade, 58.4 per cent were engaged in retail trading in cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits, sugar and other food stuffs. Retail trading in fibres and textile garments employed 9.2 per cent and 20.1 per cent of the workers in other items of retail trading.

According to 1971 Census, in all 5,250 persons (4,835 male, 415 female) were engaged in trade and commerce in Seoni District, of these 2,566 were in rural areas and 2,684 in urban areas of the total 5,250 workers in this category 1,219 were in Lakhnadon tahsil and 4,031 in Seoni tahsil.

Variation in number of workers from census to census do not necessarily indicate any trend in commercial activities, because data of these censuses are not precisely comparable due to change in definition and classification of "worker".

Course of Trade

The trade of the District centres around its main products based on agriculture and forest. According to 1971 census, food-grains, *mahua*, oil-seeds, wood, wheat and rice were the main items of export, while cloth, *kirana*, medicine and kerosene were the main imports.

Since the individual economic entity of the districts and places is disappearing fast with the rapid increase of means of transport and communication

it is difficult to mention in absolute terms, the volume and value of out-flow or exports and in-flow or imports of the commodities from and to the District. Inward and out-ward figures from some important mandies and municipalities in Seoni District may, however, be dealt with.

Imports

In 1961-62, Rs. 2.53 lakhs were collected as octroi-tax by the Seoni Municipality which increased to Rs. 4.23 lakhs in 1970-71 and Rs. 5.09 lakhs in 1973-74. Imports of some important commodities in the Municipal limits of Seoni town are given in the Table below.

Table NO. VI 8
Imports In Seoni Municipal area
(Amount in Lakh Rs.)

Maia Commodities	1961-62	1965-66	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
1. Food and Beverages	9.24	8.18	12.99	13.10	14.11	21.22
2. Cattle	0.52	0.43	0.59	0.10	1.14	0.72
3. Fule & Toilet Articles	4.03	7.90	3.98	6.72	8.93	10.14
4. Building Materials	0.88	1.42	1.66	1.75	0.24	2.01
5. Intoxicant, Perfumes & Medicines	6.60	6.12	14.17	18.30	16.75	21.65
6. Cotton and Silk Cloth	15.47	17.73	27.89	35.29	37.98	36.58
7. Hardwares	9.11	9.57	15.81	17.34	19.48	18.20
8. Miscellaneous	80.86	94.95	135.33	151.96	—	162.78

Source:—Chief Municipal Officer, Seoni.

Regulated Mandies

Regulated mandies have come into existence to solve many problems of agricultural marketing. To make them more orderly and efficient, particularly at the assembling points, they were put under regulations. Their main object is to regulate sale and purchase of agricultural commodities, create conditions for fair competition and thus, ensure a clean deal to the cultivators. There are five regulated mandies in the District at Seoni, Barghat, Chhapara, Ghansore and Lakhnadon.

Centres of Wholesale and Retail Trade

All the tahsil headquarters and banking centres in the District have wholesale and retail markets. The important business centres in the District are at Seoni, Barghat, Chhapara, Ghansore and Lakhnadon.

Rural Marketing Centres

Weekly or fortnightly market is a regular feature of rural economic life. In Seoni District 55 weekly or fortnightly markets were held in 1961, of which 34 were held in Seoni Tahsil and 21 were held in Lakhnadon tahsil.

FAIRS AND MELAS

Fairs and melas play an important role in business transactions in a backward economy. Melas have since long been an inevitable part of the District's religious life. Later, they also started assuming commercial character. In all 12 fairs were held in the District of which 7 were held in Lakhnadon tahsil and 5 in Seoni tahsil. In Lakhnadon tahsil Harduli, Lova Sarra, Gowari, Chirrau, Hinai, Gorakhpur and Bhairothan are the places where fairs and melas were held. In Seoni tahsil fairs were held at Chirchira, Mudara, Lakhanwara, Keclari and Jeonara.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

There were amazing differences in the local weights and measures in the District. The scales such as *suria*, *kuro* and *khandi* were in use in Seoni District. These measures had different significance in different places. It is reported in Seoni District Gazetteer of 1907, that grain was sold by weight in Seoni town, but by measures in other places of the District. The ordinary measure was *suria* of 40 tolas or 1 lb. and the following scale was in use¹.

One <i>suria</i>	40 tolas or 1 lb.
One small <i>Kuro</i>	14 <i>surias</i> or 7 seers.
One large <i>Kuro</i>	16 <i>surias</i> or 8 seers.
One <i>Khandi</i>	20 <i>Kuros</i> or 320 lbs.

The *Kuro* was of various sizes in different parts of the District, that of 7 seers was the commonest. But the *suria* was generally constant at a pound. The *kuro* of 8 seers was in use in the larger villages. In the Adegach tract the Labhani *Kuro* of 10 seers with the *suria* of 50 tolas was the measure employed. In Kurai the Nagpur *paili* of 100 tolas was in use. Raw cotton was weighed by the *khandi* of 13 *paseris* or 65 seers. The equivalent weights given for the above measures were in wheat, that is a *kuro* measure of wheat weighed 8 seers. A *kuro* measure of gram weighed 7 seers, of linseed 6, of til 6, of urad and mung 8, of masur 8, and of rice 8. A *Khandi* of wheat land was 2 acres, this being the area in which a *Khandi* or 320, pounds of wheat was sown. The *kos* was ordinarily, two miles but the Gondi *kos* was upto five miles.

Adoption of All India Standard

With a view to introducing uniform system of weights and measures in the country, the Government of India enacted the Standards of weights and Measures Act, 1956 and the State Government enacted the Madhya Pradesh Weights (Enforcement) Act, 1959. According to the provisions of the Act, the metric weights and capacity measures were introduced from the 1st April 1962. The metric measures of length were introduced from the 1st October 1962.

Merchant's Associations

Trade and Commerce being one of the principle economic activities, organisation of traders play an important role in economic life of the society. Food-grain Merchant's Association, Seoni, District Oil Mills, Association, Seoni and Kirana Vyapari Sangh, Seoni, are the organisations of traders, functioning in Seoni District.

1. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, P. 116

CHAPTER VII COMMUNICATIONS

No precise accounts are available regarding the trade routes and high-ways existing in this District during the ancient period. The history of construction of roads dates back to the dawn of recorded history and beyond. The roads used were only paths following the tracks of animals leading to water sources and feeding grounds through *Jungles*. The only roads worth mentioning were some fair weather routes for the use of armies on march.

An account of the road system of Seoni District is found in the Revenue Settlement Report of Seoni District. According this, the District was having one First Class road, which was known as 'Northern Road'. It passed through the whole length of the District, over number of passes of considerable height. The next important road was from Seoni to Katangi Pargana in Balaghat District.¹ Besides these, there were innumerable tracks over which the traffic found its way on pack bullocks and ponies, from Seoni to Mandla, Seoni to Chhindwara, Seoni to Narsimhapur, Seoni to Jabalpur and Seoni to Raipur. Seoni itself was important more as halting place or half-way-house between Jabalpur and Nagpur than anything else, and had grown to some size owing to the requirement of the very considerable through trade.

Thus the main road connected Seoni with Nagpur in the South and Jabalpur in the north. This was part of one the most important trade routes in the nineteenth century, connecting Berar with the trade routes in the north India. An European traveller, T. Mottee Esq. in 1766 who performed journey from Nagpur to Mirzapur, passed through Seoni, Chhapara, Lakhnadon, Dhuma in the District. He has left a vivid account of his visit to the aforesaid places in the District.²

In the first decade of this century, the total length of the metalled road in the District was 133 miles and of unmetalled road was 116 miles.³

The necessity of developing district roads in systematic way was realised by the Administration for the first time in the year 1887. In the year the Provincial Government decided to prepare specific district road scheme for all the district of the Central Provinces. "Previous to its preparation, there did not exist in a concise form any record showing the length, style of construction and annual cost of maintenance of finished roads in each district of the provinces, nor with perhaps one or two exceptions had any reliable forecast been made of the requirements of each district in the way of new lines of communication the class of work to be followed in their design and the cost of their constructions."⁴

1. Seoni Settlement Report, 1867, p. 15.

2. Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories pp. 212-213.

3. Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. XXIII, 1908, p. 172.

4. C. P. Administration Report, 1888-89, p. 53.

ROAD TRANSPORT

In the Indian Roads Congress Session of 1943, held at Nagpur, roads were classified into the following broad categories, viz:—

1. National Highways,
2. State Highways,
3. Major District Roads, and
4. Minor District Roads.

The objective of the plan was that no village in a well developed agricultural area should remain at a distance of more than 5 miles from a main road, while in agricultural area no village should remain more than 20 miles from a main road. In the year 1957 following roads existed in this District.

TABLE No. VII-1
Classification of Roads

Name of Road	Class	Distance in Km.
1. Nagpur-Mirzapur Road (National Highways)	First Class	144
2. Seoni-Mandla Road	do.	73
3. Seoni-Balaghat Road	do.	43
4. Seoni-Katangji Road	do.	40
5. Lakhnadon-Kahani-Ghansore Road	do.	40
6. Keolari-Ugli Road	do.	22
7. Seoni-Chhindwara Road	do.	17
8. Ghansore-Railway Feeder Road	do.	..
9. Bhona Railway Feeder Road	do.	..
1. Palari-Kahani Road	Second Class	15
2. Palari-Railway Feeder	do.	4
3. Khut-Lohara Road	do.	2
4. Karhiwara-Railway Feeder	do.	1
1. Seoni-Mungwari	Third Class	16
2. Gopalganj-Mundara	do.	8
3. Moli-Filkar	do.	4

The development of means of communications is a necessary precondition for economic betterment of a region. With this end in view special emphasis has been laid on the development of roads during the Five Year Plan periods. The State Public Works Department, Building and Roads Branch, is mainly responsible for the construction of roads, Bridge and Buildings of the State Government and for their maintenance.

National Highways

There is only one National Highway i. e. National Highway No. 7 traversing the District. It is called the Nagpur-Mirzapur Road. It runs from south to north in the District. The total length of this road in the District is 138 kilometers in 1974. It is maintained by the State Public Works Department on behalf of the Central Government, which pays 7 per cent of the cost of maintenance as agency charges.

Class One Roads

This type of roads are all-weather roads and are maintained by the State Public Works Department. Besides, there are other important district and state highways.

These roads connect principal market and business places of the District. These roads have been provided with a number of bridges which are sufficient to keep the traffic going in rainy season. All these roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department.

In 1956 class one roads had a total length of 367 km. in the District. By the 1973, the total length of roads under this category rose to 444 km.

Class Two and Three Roads

The total length road under class two and class three categories was 176 km. and 40 km. respectively in 1956. Their respective lengths rose to 180 km. and 115 km. in 1960 and further to impressive lengths of 578 km and 161 km in 1978.

Municipal Roads

These roads are maintained by the Municipal Committee within the Municipal area. Seoni Municipality maintained about 12 kilometers roads in 1973-74.

Forest Roads

These roads are mostly cart tracks, all unmetalled, *Kutch* and motarable only during the open season. The following roads are maintained by the Forest Department.

- (1) Dhapa-Gadarwara-Nagandeori Road,
- (2) Makorjhir-Dhaukakari-kerpani Road,
- (3) Banjari-Shikara Road,
- (3) Dhuma-Shikara Road,
- (5) Dheewa-Nagandeori Road
- (6) Raichora-Deori Road,
- (8) Raichora-Hulaki Road,
- (9) Dharpatha-Jugarai Road,
- (10) Dhapa-Gadarwara-Nagandeori Road,
- (11) Makorjhir-Dhankadi-Kerpani Road,
- (12) Shikara-Banjara Road,
- (13) Shikara-Paili Road,
- (14) Tunia-Lendikal Road,
- (15) Lendikal-Xata Road,
- (16) Rata-Gokala Road,
- (17) Birari-Malpathar Road, and
- (18) Ghansore-Kedarpur Road.

In the Fifth Five Year Plan the construction of roads have been taken up under the minimum needs programme. All the villages with a population of 1000 and above are to be connected with the minimum roads. As many as 11 roads have been proposed in the District during the Fifth Plan under this programme and a provision of Rs. 41 lakhs has been made for the implementation. In all 21 other roads have been proposed and an outlay of Rs. 15 lakhs has been provided during the Fifth Five Year Plan. The total provision for roads under the Fifth Five Year Plan is to the tune of Rs. 57 lakhs.

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCES

The number of automobiles in the District registered a steady rise since the year 1960-61. It rose from 206 vehicles in 1960-61 to 333 in 1966, 610 in 1970, 555 in 1971 and 662 in 1972. The rising trend is due to speedy urbanization. The table below shows the details of various type of vehicles.

TABLE No. VII-2
Number of Automobiles in Seoni District

Year	Cars	Buses	Trucks	Motor Cycles	Taxis	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1961	81	21	91	19	..	15
1966	75	39	146	41	..	32
1967	88	39	149	72	..	38
1968	98	40	159	94	..	49
1969	104	43	173	112	..	53
1970	113	39	166	133	..	59
1971	124	40	180	144	..	67
1972	132	56	189	199	4	82

Source : Regional Transport Officer, Jabalpur, M. P.

Bicycles

The bicycles have gained much popularity with the people with in the rural and urban areas of the District due to their multifarious uses and cheapness. Seoni Municipality registered 440 bicycles in the year 1965-66 which rose to 510 in 1966-67, 985 in 1967-68 and 1,010 in 1968-69.

Horse Driven Tongas

These vehicles are used for transport of goods as well as passengers for local distances. In Seoni town the number of horse driven tongas in 1965-66 were 56, which rose to 60 in 1968-69, 64 in 1969-70, 66 in 1970-71 and 70 in 1971-72.

Bullock Carts

The bullock cart is still the basic means of transport specially in rural areas where the roads are few and their condition is poor. The bullock carts are used in urban areas mostly for the transport of grain and heavy goods within the towns, while in rural areas they are used as means of conveyance also. In Seoni town, there were 20 registered bullock carts in 1965-66, which rose to 55 in 1967-68.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

In this District both the private and the state owned public transport services ply side by side in some cases even on the same routes. The main routes are operated by the State owned services, while the rural routes are mostly run by private operators.

RAILWAYS

Railways are regarded the most efficient means of transport in 19th and 20th century. They exercised a profound influence on the economic development of the District. Railways occupy a very important place in transporting bulk of goods to a medium distance.

Seoni, the District headquarters, is situated on the south-eastern Railway's narrow gauge line, Nainpur-Nagpur line via Chhindwara. The other line, also a narrow gauge, is the Gondia-Jabalpur line passing through the north-eastern part of the District. Both these railway lines fall under the jurisdiction of the South-eastern railway with Divisional Headquarters at Nagpur. Both the railway lines together have a total length of over 110 Km. in the District.

1. Nainpur-Nagpur Line

The Nainpur-Nagpur line enters the District boundary at Keolari which is the first railway station within the District, followed by Palari, Kaniwada, Bhoma, Seoni, and Piperdahi. The total length of this railway line is over 70 Km.

2. Jabalpur-Gondia Line

The Jabalpur-Gondia section of South Eastern Railway, also a narrow gauge runs for about 40 km. in the District. This line was opened for traffic in 1905. Formerly, it was known as Satpura branch line of Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The railway stations within the District being Shikara, Vinayaki and Ghansore.

TRAVEL AND TOURIST FACILITIES

There are a number of Rest Houses and Dak-bungalows in District for affording facilities to the travellers and Government officers. The primary purpose of maintaining the Rest Houses is to provide facilities regarding boarding and lodging to touring Government officials coming to the district on duty. But they are made available to the public also at prescribed rates if accommodation is available.

The Circuit House is intended for V. I. Ps., Secretaries, Heads of Departments and other Class I Officers of the State and Central Governments. The Collector of the District is the controlling authority for allotting accommodation in the Circuit House, while the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Building and Roads) is the controlling authority for allotting accommodation in the Rest Houses. A list of Rest Houses and Circuit Houses maintained by the Public Works Department in the District is given in the Appendix.

POST, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

With the advent of the British the postal system was reorganised. The Postal Act of 1837 was repealed by the Act of 1854. This Act marked the beginning of the present organisation of the Post Offices. However, mainly it dealt with the working and control of Imperial Post only. The system of Postal communication in the interior of the District was different. Its operation was not covered by the Imperial Post. This was known as the District Post and was meant to provide communication between the headquarters of the District and revenue and Police Stations in the interior. As the dak system developed in the District and several post offices increased in importance they were absorbed into Imperial Department and the fund thus set free were utilized for the further improvement of the rural delivery.

During these days district post offices existed at the Police Station and at the Sadar Station. The general rules of the Post Office Department were adopted. The Nazir of the District Court was the Officer-in-charge of District Post, while the Police writer at the Police Station served as District Post Master.

There was a delivery peon for the postal sub-division of the District corresponding to the Police limits of the Police Station. There were dak runners between the Sadar Station and Police Station in the interior.

In these initial stages of postal development, expenses were covered partly by the District Post cess which amounted to annas eight per cent of the land revenue assessment and partly income derived from bearing and stamped letters. As early as 1862-63 a proposal was made to bring the receipt and delivery of letters in the interior of the District under the Control of the Post Office Department. During the year 1867-68, management of District Postal lines and establishment was made over to the Chief Inspector, who controlled Imperial Post Department in the Central Provinces.

Present Set-up

In 1951, there were 6 Sub-Post Offices and 4 Telegraph Offices in this District. During the course of the next two decades, i.e., in 1971-72 the number of Sub-Post Offices increased to 14 and Telegraph Offices to 10. Besides there were 38 permanent Branch Offices and 57 experimental Branch Offices in 1971-72. As regards the distribution of Sub-offices they are mostly located in urban areas of the District. All the Post Offices of this District fall under the jurisdiction of Chhindwara Head Post Office. The following table gives the details of post and Telegraphs Offices of District.

TABLE No. VII-4
Number of Post and Telegraph Offices

Year	Number of Post Offices			Number of Telegraph Offices
	Sub-Post Offices	Permanent Branch Offices	Experimental Branch Offices	
1951-52	6	..	..	4
1956-57	6	12	44	4
1961-62	7	24	67	5
1965-66	9	32	69	6
1966-67	9	35	66	7
1967-68	10	38	61	8
1968-69	11	38	61	9
1969-70	11	38	57	9
1970-71	14	38	69	9
1971-72	14	38	57	10
1972-73	13	38	56	10

Source : Superintendent, Post Offices, Chhindwara.

1. C. P. Administration Report, 1864-65, p. 38.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Main occupations of the society covering the important sectors of economy like agriculture, industry, trade and commerce, etc., have been discussed in other chapters. But besides these major activities, there remain a sizeable portion of population engaged in different professions and services, some of which are being dealt with in this chapter. Though miscellaneous in nature, they occupy a significant place in society.

With our object of a welfare-State, the learned professions, e.g., teaching and medicine are being given national importance and public services have also been reorganised with the enactment of different Central and State legislations. Professions under these two categories and many important domestic and personal services form the subject matter of the miscellaneous occupations. The occupational classification for the 1961 Census data bring out the numerical strength for and rural-urban distribution of persons engaged in various occupations.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Administrative and Executive Officials

Occupations connected with public administration are vital to a smooth running of all the civic activities in the District. Administrative and executive officials, working at various levels in the different branches of the District set-up totalled 1,409, including 23 females, out of whom 96 males and 8 females were working in urban areas, according to 1961 Census. They included workers from lowest category of the executive line to the highest administrative heads, working under the Central and State Government, Local Bodies and village officials. In Seoni District, the number of Central and State Government officials was 9 and 119, respectively. In the same way, Local Bodies and Quasi-Government officials were 10 and 4, respectively. Number of village officials in this District was 1,267 of whom 19 were females.

Clerical and Related Workers

Clerical and related workers may be treated as a necessary adjunct to the administrative machinery and hence may usefully be discussed here. As per 1961 Census, Clerical and related workers in the District were 1,319 including 68 females, of whom 873 were in urban areas. Among various such workers book keepers and accounts clerks were numbered 149, of whom 131 were in urban sector including one female. All the 9 Stenographers and Typists were in urban areas and female participation was nil. During this year, Miscellaneous Clerical workers were 613 including 50 females, of which 391 were in urban areas. Unskilled office workers which includes attendants, ushers, *mali*, porters, etc. were 548 including 17 females, out of whom 342 were in urban areas.

Thus, lack of females in all the categories shows a rural oriented structure of the local population. Even unskilled office workers have only a negligible female participation.

As regards special amenities available to the public employees in the District, they are largely the same to those existing all over the Madhya Pradesh. These include the provisions of dearness allowance, medical reimbursement, pension at retirement, family pension on death, gratuity and general provident fund and various kinds of leave. Government accommodation is also made available to its employees, subject to its availability.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teaching

Teachers being instrumental in the spread of education teaching is one of the most important of these learned professions. In a democratic society importance of teachers as a nation builder cannot be over looked. With free primary education programmes being undertaken by the State, the number of teachers in all stages of education has increased. According to occupational classification of 1961 Census the total number of teachers in the District was 1,480 with 133 female teachers among them. The urban component with 265 teachers (66 females) shows a more or less proportionate spread of educational facilities in rural areas of the District. In this year of Census, only 8 male teachers (5 in urban areas) were those of the college level. The number of teachers at Secondary School level was 63, including 19 females, all were in urban areas. This reflects the lack of higher educational facilities in Seoni District. Teachers at Middle and Primary School level were naturally highest, being 1,324 including 119 females, of whom 135 were in urban areas. There were 85 "Other Teachers" (including 9 females), of these 62 were in urban centres.

Economic condition of the teachers in the District is not much different than other fixed income earners every where in the country. Though the economic condition of the university and secondary level teachers is better as compared to that of primary and middle level teachers.

Legal Services

Jurists providing legal service in the District are centred mostly at the District of the Tahsil head-quarters, which are the seats of law courts. According to occupational classification of 1961 Census, there were 51 jurists in the District, of whom 45 were in urban areas and the female participation in this profession was nil. This number consisted of 4 judges and magistrates, 34 legal practitioners, one law assistant and 12 other jurists and legal technician including petition writers among them. Economic conditions of legal practitioners as a class in these days, when every profession is over crowded is rather difficult. The lawyers generally engage themselves with some social cultural or political activities. The lawyers having a long standing in this profession charge comparatively higher fees than the fresh entrants in the profession.

Medical Services

With increased emphasis on public health and family planning programme, medical profession has been attracting more and more persons. Besides teachers, doctors who were covered under the head "Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists", numbered 106, including 4 females, of whom 40 including 2 female were in urban areas. Among these, 41 were Allopathic, 47 Ayurvedic, 5 Homeopathic, 9 Dentists and 4 other medical practitioners. Other related occupations in the field of medical and public health services were those of Nurses, Pharmacists and other medical and health technicians, which numbered 239, including 123 females. In this category, there were 84 nurses, 37 midwives, 23 nursing attendants, 15 pharmacists, 35 vaccinators, 7 sanitation technicians and 38 medical and health technicians, not mentioned elsewhere. As regards economic condition of persons in this profession, they are better placed. Majority of them, particularly those in the allopathic branch of medicine being in Government service, they enjoy security of job and all other facilities like residential accommodation, etc. Apart from this, they earn some more by private practice.

Technical Services

In Seoni District, learned professions connected with modern technology were mostly centered in the urban areas only, and female participation in this profession was nil. As per the occupational classification of 1961 census, there were 48 (26 in urban areas) persons in the category of architects, engineers and surveyors. Out of these, 38 were civil engineers, 3 electrical engineers, 6 surveyors and one was in "Others" category of the profession.

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

We have discussed till now, the occupations related to public administration and learned professions. A large number of persons are engaged in domestic and personal services. Thus, tailors, washermen, barbers, cooks, etc., are engaged in providing for the essential domestic requirements of the local population.

Tailors and Cutters

According to 1961 Census classification, there were 995 persons, including 167 females, in the occupational class of tailors, dress makers and garment makers. Out of these, 232 including 32 females, were in urban areas. These figures indicate that persons engaged in this profession were distributed all over the District according to the needs of local population.

Launderers and Dry-cleaners

Laundrymen, washermen and dhobies as an occupational class numbered 581, including 269 females. Out of these 114 persons, including 53 females were in urban areas. In this occupation females were sufficient in number.

Barbers and Hair-Dressers

The category of barbers, hair-dressers and related workers in Secni District numbered 733, including 85 in urban areas. Female participation in this occupation was nil due to its peculiar nature of work.

Other Domestic Services

Lastly, there remains the class of domestic servants counted as house keepers, cooks, maids and related workers. In 1961 Census, the number of workers in this occupation was 589, including 261 females. Out of this 257 including 169 female workers were in urban areas. The largest number among these was claimed by domestic butlers, bearers, waiters and maids, class with 398, including 159 females. Next to them, the number of cooks and cook-bearers was 98, including 37 females. Apart from these domestic *ayas* and nurses and other related workers were 36, including 2 in urban areas. Economic conditions of persons in these occupations could now said to be better than what it was in earlier times.

These occupations perform services which are of essential nature. It is not possible to do away normally with the services of barber, tailor or washerman. Persons engaged in these occupations are always in a position to shift at least a part of their burden of increasing prices to their customers.

Economic conditions in the class of other domestic services, i.e., house keepers, bearers, cooks, and *ayas* etc., has undergone a change with the changing economic climate. There are now rarely the whole-time cooks, maid servants *ayas* and nurses etc., except in the highest class of the society. They are generally employed as part-time workers. This is due to the fact that joint families are becoming non-existent and also because wages to be paid to these domestic servants have gone beyond the paying capacity of general house holders. Thus, there is a preference for part-time jobs among cooks and maid servants.

Since 1961, the District economy has witnessed the execution of various Plans for the overall development of the District. These have created potentialities of employment in secondary and tertiary sectors of economy. The later data for some of the occupations, though from a different angle is reflected in the reports of "Employment Market". The reports classify them in accordance with the Standard Industrial Classification, contrary to the Occupational Classification of census, 1961, hitherto followed. Though the figures given in the following table are not comparable, yet it will give a broad picture of miscellaneous occupations in a wider sense, clubbed together under "Services" division of the aforesaid Classification.

TABLE No. VIII-1

Industry	No. of Employees in March			
	1970	1971	1972	1973
1. Public Service in officer of State Government	1,332	1,325	1,357	1,074
2. Local Bodies	356	343	350	334
3. Educational Service	2,255	2,300	2,483	2,130
4. Public Health and Medical Services	316	363	430	462
5. Other Services	311	325	328	701

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The economy of the District and its surroundings had all along been dominated by forest produce and agriculture, mostly primordial in its form and traditional in outlook. From the beginning it lay on a trunk route for travellers and commerce, going from Allahabad and Avadh in the north to Nagpur and beyond in the south. Still, the region lying amid the formidable mountains and thick forests was not conducive to the establishment of any important trade centres and the large tribal population in the hills was apt to follow a rudimentary way of living. Besides, after the slackening of the Maratha rule and in the early British days the traffic was much threatened by the movement of thugs and petty criminals. Even so, once the British were firmly established the trade and economic activity in the area revived and received protection from the predatory elements. The subsequent introduction of the narrow gauge railway line much boosted the export of forest produce and grain from the area besides facilitating the imports and toning up the economy in general.

PATTERN OF LIVELIHOOD

The District area throughout had an agricultural population with a large tribal content which generally led an unsettled life. Most of these Gond tribal worked as labourers only. In the 19th century, the 1881 census divided only the male population of the District into six occupational classes but could fairly be called, representative of the livelihood pattern of the past. Thus, the most numerous was naturally the agricultural and pastoral class including gardeners with 83,536 persons. It was followed by a class described as indefinite and non-productive class comprising general labourers and male children which totalled 60,452 persons. The latter could, in all probability, be largely termed as a subsidiary class to the former. Then the third most numerous class was the manufacturing and industrial class, including artisans with 17,378 persons in it. Of the three remaining classes, the professional class including civil and military had 7,320 persons while the other two the commercial and the domestic class had 1,830 and 1,009 persons, respectively, to their credit. The last could comprise personal services like the washerman's or the barber's. As the years passed the census became more exhaustive and accurate in their coverage and definition of those working categories. However, the picture of overall predominance of agricultural pursuits with only a few of household industries of some significance in the District remained almost unchanged. One significant household industry carried on since the past, though not on a large scale, was the weaving and dyeing of the coarse cotton cloth. The Imperial Gazetteer published.

in the beginning of this Century even mentioned weaving of *tasar* silk cloth at Seoni, but only as an industry, nearly extinct¹.

The post-Independence planning, however, propped up the already declining household industries in general and helped increase the opportunities for more alternate occupations in an almost wholly agricultural economy. The tribal people also became more settled cultivators of land. In the present, the 1961 census gave a detailed account of livelihood pattern after the District again came into an independent existence in 1956.

Thus, according to 1961 census the participation rate for the District that is, the percentage of workers to its total population (5,23,741) was 57.6 per cent. This compared well with a somewhat smaller rate of 52.3 per cent for the whole State. The general participation rate, however, was bolstered by a comparatively large female participation of 53.4 per cent as against the State average of 44 per cent. Between the two tahsils, Seoni, the District Headquarters Tahsil, had a slight edge with a participation of 58.3 per cent as compared to 56.5 per cent of Lakhnadon Tahsil. In actual figures, the total worker's population in the District thus came to 3,01,712 of which as much as 87 per cent depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Tahsilwise, the proportion of dependence on agriculture was higher (90 per cent) in the entirely rural Lakhnadon Tahsil. This agricultural sector when broken up consisted of 2,01,353 cultivators in all, who outnumbered the remaining 62,969 agricultural labourers by more than 3 to 1. Economically, about 79 per cent of the cultivating households in rural areas were full owners of the land cultivated by them. All this only emphasized the heavy dependence of the District population on agriculture as a source of living.

Among other categories of workers other services and household industry with 14,094 and 9,077 persons accounted for about 4.7 and 3.1 per cent of the working force, respectively.

These, after agriculture, could be counted as important in the District economy with the former having particular significance only in the administrative centres which limited them to a large extent to Seoni itself. Somewhat less important, but spread well out over the District area was the third category of mining quarrying, fishing, forestry, livestock, etc. With 5,728 persons it accounted for 1.9 per cent of the working force and in this District was largely connected with livestock and forestry only. Trade and commerce was the next in line with 4,670 persons coming to 1.5 per cent of the workers in the District. The rest of the three categories, namely, manufacture other than household industry (1,393), construction (851) and transport and communications (1,577), were proportionately less than one per cent of the working force in each case. Mention may also be made of the partially tribal slant of the economy lent by

1. Imperial Gazetteer of India. Vol. XXII, New Edition, 1908, p. 171.

the 334 per cent of the tribal population in the District. Economically, they depended almost totally on agriculture which absorbed much as 95 per cent of their workers. The District thus could be described as backward in respect of large scale industries.

According to the figures of 1971 census the work participation rate for the District was 41.28 per cent. This fall had come about on account of the change in the definition of the worker and being to the extent of about 15 per cent it almost exactly matched the fall in the State percentage which had come down to 36.7 per cent. This indicated almost no change from the position of 1961. Among the workers themselves who totalled 2,75,929, the agricultural sector with 2,43,894 persons in all, still claimed 88.39 per cent of the workers of these, the cultivators were 1,56,154 with the remaining 87,740 working as agricultural labourers. All others numbering 32,035 together claimed 11.61 per cent of the working population. Thus, proportionately the sectoral distribution of the working population had remained somewhat similar to that of the last census.

PRICES

In 19th Century

The early and mid 19th century prices in the area were apparently much lower than even those during the 30 year settlement of 1865-66. Thus at this settlement the average of foodgrains prices for 1845-65 was taken for the purposes of assessment which worked out to wheat 85 lbs., gram 82 lbs., and rice 54 lbs. per rupee. But this level had risen perceptibly in the 1860 and to quote the old Gazetteer, Up'o 1861, prices were very low, but from that year a great inflation took place in Seoni as elsewhere in consequence of the American War. In 1864, the rates were 40 lbs. of wheat and 20 lbs. of rice to the rupee. Although the Settlement Officer hoped for a return of the low prices after the effects of this War subsided, they never fell to the pre 1860 level. This was brought about by a combination of natural and other causes like the famine of 1868 and the opening of the Nagpur-Jabalpur railway line which resulted "the subsequent development of export trade, in gain with Europe".² Quinquennial average prices of wheat, gram and rice during the currency of the above referred settlement upto 1905 as given below were the retail prices obtaining at Seoni. Thus, the actual wholesale prices at which the farmers sold their grain could be taken to be lower than these.

¹ Seoni District Gazetteer Vol. A, (1907) p. 106.
² *Ibid.* p. 106.

Table No. IX-1
Quinquennial Prices of Food Grains (At Seoni)

(In pounds per rupee)

Year	Wheat	Gram	Rice
1866-70	35	28	21
1871-75	56	53	37
1876-80	37	44	34
1881-85	47	55	37
1886-90	37	39	28
1891-95	33	36	26
1896-1900	26	27	22
1901-1905	31	34	24

Source: Seoni District Gazetteer (1907), Vol. A.

In early 20th Century

In these prices wheat was dearer than gram for the best of the period because of the increased European trade in that commodity in those days. The average annual retail prices were also continuously available since 1893. To give a comparative idea, the prices of wheat, gram and rice for 1905, the last year of quinquennial averages were 2.7, 2.3 and 3.5 rupees per *maund*, respectively. The above quinquennial rates and similar quinquennial rates taken from some leading grain dealers were worked out to arrive at an average which could be compared with the prices of 30 years settlement. They showed a rise of 100 and 73 per cent in the prices of wheat and gram, respectively. Worked on the basis of published prices only, in the case of rice the prices rose by 77 per cent. These rates, worked for the purposes of next settlement (1896-98), also showed that, the prices had nearly doubled since before the 30 years settlement. Still in the present context, these prices retain only a historical interest for not only do they stand no comparison with the present levels, the rate of rising has also now left far behind the past price rises. But to go back to the past, the wholesale harvest prices for 1909-10 in case of wheat and gram with Rs. 3 and Rs. 2 per *maund*, respectively, were slightly higher than the 1905 retail prices. Looking to the fact that, the retail prices were higher from the wholesale rates that increase, in reality, was somewhat greater. The prices for rice, *lowar sesamum* and *linseed* in the same year (1909-10) were Rs. 3, Rs. 2½, Rs. 5 and Rs. 7 and annas 3 per *maund*, respectively.

During First World War

During this decade the foodgrain prices though creatically had been moving with a slight upward trend. In the case of linseed, however, they showed a falling trend until, of course, the effects of First World War swung them all visibly by the year 1918-19. In this year all the prices stood far adove the level of 1909-10. Thus, wheat sold at Rs. 6 annas 2 per *maund* while *jowar* and *gram* were Rs. 6 annas 6 and Rs. 6 annas 2 per *maund*, respectively. The price of linseed roes from Rs. 4 *annas* 4 in 1914-15 and Rs. 5 annas 6 in 1917-18 to Rs. 11 annas 7 per *maund* in 1918-19.

Table No. IX-2
Wholesale Harvest prices

(In Rs. and Annas per Maund)

Year	Wheat	Rice	jowar	Gram	Sasamum	Linseed
1980-10	3-0	2-0	2-8	2-8	5-0	7-3
1911-12	3-3	3-0	..	2-8	6-8	6-4
1913-14	3-14	..	..	3-13	..	5-5
1915-16	3-4	..	..	3-12	5-0	4-10
1918-19	6-12	..	6-6	6-2	..	11-7

Source.—Statistics of Rainfall Area Production and trade of Agricultural Commodities in Madhya Pradesh, Vol. II

Those prices in general, continued at a comparatively higher level during the next two or three years. In the following years from 1921 to 1923 however their level, though not in conformity with any definit trend, came considerably down from the 1918-20 levels. Thus, as evidenced in the below table the price of wheat came down from a high level of Rs. 6 annas 11 per *maund* in 1921-22 to Rs. 4 per *maund* in 1922-23. Similarly, the price of rice fell from Rs. 6 annas 3 in 1921-22 to Rs. 4 annas 11 in 1922-23. The price of *jowar* had already fallen 1921-22 to Rs. 3 annas 10 per *maund* from Rs. 6 annas 2 per *maund* 1920-21 while, the fall in price of *gram* was the greatest from Rs. 5 annas 5 per *maund* in 1921-22 to Rs. 2 annas 11 per *maund* in 1922-23. These levels were mostly due to good seasonal out turns and the increasing or pressure on their demand.

The Depression

In the next few years the prices moved quite unpredictably and mostly in response to the local factors. They, however, could not move much upwards before the worldwide Depression of 1929 made its impact felt in this region also. As a result the prices were down again as shown below, to the level of the first decade of this century. Not only that; but from 1929-30 onwards the price remained for one reason or the other, round about these extremely low levels for almost a full decade.

ECONOMIC TRENDS
Table No. IX-3
Wholesale Harvest Prices
(In Rs. and Annas per Maund)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Jowar	Gram	Sesamum	Linseed
1924-25	5-5	5-5	4-7	4-2	9-8	8-6
1925-26	4-13	5-11	..	3-14	..	6-10
1927-28	4-7	5-11	2-14	4-0	..	5-0
1929-30	3-10	..	..	3-11	..	..
1931-32	2-2	..	..	3-1	..	3-1
1933-34	2-3	..	..	2-2	..	3-13
1935-36	..	2-6	2-2	..	..	4-3
1937-38	2-8	..	..	2-12	..	..
1938-39	2-8	..	..	1-14	..	4-3

Source : Statistics of Rainfall Area, Production and Trade of Agricultural Commodities in Madhya Pradesh, Vol. II.

Impact of Second World War

This slide in prices after the Depression was almost about the last to come and as soon as the repercussions of the Second World War made their impact felt, the food and all other prices every where set in a definit upward trend. Despite, whatever, seasonal or local factors there might have been the prices, as could be seen from the figures below continued to rise with hardly on exception or two. Registering an early rise at the beginning of the forties the prices of wheat, rice, *gram* and *jowar* all had further risen by more than 100 per cent before the end of 1943-44. Among oilseeds the price of linseed with only one significant fall in 1943-44 rose by more than three times in all from Rs. 5 annas 5 per *maund* in 1939-40 to Rs. 18 per *maund* in 1946-47. The Sesamum, however in a still shorter period showed the greatest rise of nearly fivetimes from Rs. 5 annas 6 per *maund* in 1941-42 to Rs. 25 per *maund* in 1946-47.

Table No. IX-4
Wholesale Harvest Prices
(In Rs. and Annas per Maund)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Jowar	Gram	Sesamum	Linseed
1939-40	3-3	5-0	..	3-9	..	5-5
1941-42	5-7	5-11	3-3	5-0	6	..
1943-44	10-0	12-0	8-0	11-0	13-10	8-0
1945-46	10-11	10-0	..	..	..	17-0
1946-47	10-8	8-13	6-14	11-7	25-0	17-0

Source : Statistics of Rainfall, Area, Production and Trade of Agricultural Commodities in Madhya Pradesh, Vol. II.

Post Independence Period

The five Year Plans after Independence with their development schemes and increasing deficit expenditure, though generated the much needed lift in investment and production, also raised the prices. Even the good out-turn of crops in the early fifties could not pull them down enough while a few later failures of monsoon in the sixties helped them rise out of proportion. Thus, the inflationary stress on the national economy in general had already become conspicuous by the late sixties. The table below shows this high price rise through the sixties;—

Table No. IX-5
Farm Harvest Prices

Year	Wheat	Rice	Jowar	Gram	Sesamum	Linseed
(In Rs. per Maud)						
1956-57	17-44	11-50	11-50	14-06	..	17-19
1961-62	15-21	..	11-25	13-98	31-30	19-97
(In Rs. per Quintal)						
1964-65	51-26	62-63	43-88	49-17	102-12	73-20
1968-69	80-11	95-94	..	69-16	143-41	122-68

Source : Season and Crop Reports.

WAGES

Early Period

The movements of wages of the local labour and village craftsmen as traced below since the past century, were generally in response to the price changes and factors like local demand or seasonal labour movements.

Thus monthly rates of wages for a farm servant, i. e. agricultural labourer in Seoni during the period 1893 to 1903 were Rs. 4 on an average. Similarly, the wages of artisans like masons, carpenters and blacksmiths were Rs. 15 per month during the last decade of the 19th century which in 1903 rose to Rs. 17. But before we go further into the later years, an important phenomenon, that of barter system of payment, would not be out of place to discuss. This system held a large sway over the rural areas in those days and was accorded a distinct and detailed reference in the old Gazetteer. Although the change over from wages in kind to cash had already started taking shape at the time it has not yet gone completely out of vogue.

Wages in Kind

Thus, at the turn of the century the agricultural servants were still, usually being paid in grain according to customary rates that varied in different parts of the District. In the spring crop area a common way of engaging a farm servant was by *batia* or share. He received a fifth of the produce on a holding after deductions due to the village servants, were made. Among other things he was also paid extra for watching the crop. In the area where rice was grown the wages for a farm servant were 6 *Khandis* (each approx. 140 kgs.) of unhusked grain and Rs. 4 in cash while at the time of threshing another two *Khandis* were paid for services rendered by his wife.

Then the system of cash payments had also been introduced by that time owing to the fluctuations in grain prices. These rates for a farm servant varied from Rs. 2 to 3 per month with a blanket and a pair of shoes. One of them, in case there were many, was made *chirohi* or headman and got Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 a month. A tenant with 10 to 12 acres holding if he had a working wife or son did not usually employ a servant. A man employed by owners of large herds of cows for tending them received something more than the grain wages of a farm servant plus two pairs of shoes every year and a blanket every alternate year. His wife collected the manure and in return got the buttermilk, one or two *khandis* of grain and a *sari* every year. When the cattle were made over to village *ahir* the rate was 2 *kuros* (14 kgs. approx.) of grain for a cow and 4 *kuros* for a she-buffalow.

As for the artisans, the village carpenter and blacksmith were paid annually with every cultivator contributing at the rate of approximately 14 kgs. of grain per plough of two bullocks or per 10 to 12 acres of land added with presents at seed time and harvesting time. Other artisans or workers were also similarly paid with slight differences except *kumhar* and *basor* who sold their articles. The wife of a barber attended on the women of a family and received presents on all important occasions while the *basorin* or *basor's* wife used to act as the mid-wife in a village receiving Rupee one at the birth of a boy and annas eight for that of a girl.

First Decade of 20th century

To come back to the cash wages, as already indicated, they had, in the whole, risen during the first decade of the 20th century as compared to the preceding years. A look on the figures of their movement, however, made it clear that, the fluctuations were quite uneven both among themselves and in relation to each other. Prices apart, this was due to seasonal and other factors like their local demand and effects of labour movements. The influence of prices on these wages was also reflected in the fact of their generally rising levels, however,

differeing and erratic. Thus, agricultural labourer's wage had already had a sudden spurt in one year from Rs. 3 annas 8 to Rs. 5 per month way back in 1898 from the effects of 1897 high prices. These wages, as may be seen from the table below, moved rather uncertainly throughout the first decade rising at middle and again towards the end. In comparison the wages of mason and carpenter were more steady remaining at Rs. 17 annas 8 per month in both the cases right from 1903 to 1907. The wages of blacksmith, perhaps due to shortage of workers experienced an early rise to as much as Rs. 25 per month in 1905 from Rs. 17 annas per month in the previous year:—

Table No. IX-6

Monthly Average Wages

(In Rs. & Annas)

Year	Agricultural Labour	Mason	Carpenter	Blacksmith
1901	4-0	12-12	13-0	15-4
1903	4-0	17-8	17-8	17-4
1905	5-8	17-8	17-8	25-0
1907	4-8	17-8	17-8	25-0
1909	5-0	16-0	18-0	24-0

Source.—Seoni District Gazetteer, Vol. B

During First World War

In the following decade, the wages of agricultural labourer remained at a comparatively higher level and by 1918 went further up to between Rs. 8 and 10 from Rs. 7 to 8 per month of 1917. The range of wages of all the three artisans, which up to 1914 had largely remained between the limits of Rs. 20 and 30 per month, shifted its lower limit down to Rs. 15 per month in 1915. This indicated availability of more hands, possibly for lesser or semi-skilled jobs. However, the world-wide effects of First World War boosted the food and other prices all round and the wages also soon followed in their wake. Thus both the lower and higher limits of mason, carpenter and blacksmiths wages also rose by 1918 alongwith those of the agricultural labourer. These wages, once they had got the fillip, as shown below steadied themselves at these levels and, if at all, moved still higher in the coming year.

ECONOMIC FUND

Table No. IX-7

Monthly Average Wages

(In Rs. & Annas)

Year	Agricultural Labourer	Mason	Carpenter	Blacksmith
1911	5-0	22-0	18-0	22-8
1913	6-0	22-0	22-8	22-8
	to	to	to	to
	8-0	30-0	25-0	25-0
1915	5-0	15-0	15-0	15-0
	to	to	to	to
	9-0	35-0	30-0	30-0
1917	7-0	15-0	15-0	15-0
	to	to	to	to
	8-0	35-0	35-0	35-0
1918	8-0	25-0	20-0	20-0
	to	to	to	to
	10-0	40-0	40-0	40-0
1921	8-0	30-0	20-0	20-0
	to	to	to	to
	15-0	45-0	45-0	45-0

Source.—Seoni District Gazetteer, Vol. B.

The Depression

In the Nineteen-twenties, however, though the prices were not rising the wages kept up with their upward trend. Thus, the agricultural labourer's wages were still between Rs. 9 to 15 by 1927 while those, of mason, carpenter, and blacksmith had risen variously between the limits of Rs. 37 annas 8 to Rs. 80 per month by the same year. And, except the agricultural labourer all the artisan's wages were still not much different in 1930-31 when the effects of the world-wide Depression of 1929 overtook them. Consequently, the wages of mason came down to between Rs. 25 and Rs. 40 per month in 1931-32 from that of between Rs. 30 and Rs. 52 Annas 8 of 1930-31. Similarly, the ranges of the wages of carpenter and blacksmith also came down to between Rs. 25 and Rs. 35 and Rs. 25 and Rs. 45 per month, respectively in 1931-32 from limits varying between Rs. 30 and Rs. 60 per month of the previous year. Agricultural labourer's wages more directly affected by the food prices, had already moved down by as much as half between Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 per month in 1930-31. The earlier wage rises of the Twenties and the effects of Depression which came from the beginning of Thirties can be observed from the table below:—

Table No. IX-8
Monthly Wages

(In Rs. & Annas)

Year	Agricultural Labourer	Mason	Carpenter	Blacksmith
1927	9-6 to 15-0	37-8 to 41-4	37-8 to 45-0	45-0 to 80-0
1929	8-0 to 12-0	30-0 to 37-8	37-8 to 45-0	45-0 to 60-0
1930-31	4-0 to 5-0	30-0 to 52-8	30-0 to 45-0	45-0 to 60-0
1931-32	4-0 to 5-0	25-0 to 40-0	25-0 to 35-0	35-0 to 45-0
1932-33	4-0 to 5-0	22-8 to 30-0	22-8 to 30-0	22-0 to 30-0

Source:— Seoni District Gazetteer 1907, Vol. B.

The wages which had slumped with the prices as a sequel to the Depression in general went further down through the late thirties. It was only after the demands generated by the far-reaching effects of the Second World War that the economy came under pressure from all sides and raised the wages up. Soon the old rates of artisans, wages which varied between Rs. 12 and Rs. 30 per month upto 1940-41 for the Seoni sub-division, were to start rising almost continually. The long lasting effects of War followed by the post-partition stresses on the economy after Independence seemed to link the wages more and more with rising the prices. The absence of relevant data, however, does not allow for detailed statistical account of the Forties.

Post Independence Period

The Post Independence period with its Five Year Plans boosted the doses of deficit expenditure enormously which brought, alongwith the rise in demand for resources, the inflated prices too. Thus, under the increasing pressure of demand and their own cost of living these village artisans also demanded and received many intermittent rises in their wages. The agricultural labourer's in terms of daily averages of their wages with 97 paise per day in the month of May, 1957 were already getting much higher than the pre-Second World War level. The carpenter and blacksmith for the same period had an average of Rs. 1.56 and Rs. 1.38 per day, respectively. As given below, these artisans' wages alongwith those of the cobbler had, after some ups and downs, gone further up near the end of Third Plan in 1965 and doubled or more than doubled by 1969. Thus, rising wages prompted by the still more rising prices seem to have become a permanent phenomenon of the present.

Table No. IX-9
Daily Agricultural Wages
(For the Month of May)

(In Rupees)

Year	Ploughman Labourer	Agricultural Labourer	Carpenter	Blacksmith	Cobbler
1957	1.00	0.97	1.56	1.38	0.94
1960	0.75	1.00	2.50	..	2.25
1965	1.12	..	2.50	2.00	1.75
1969	1.50	1.25	3.50	3.00	2.00

STANDARD OF LIVING

Material conditions particularly of the Gond tribals and some lower classes as understood in the terms of their ways and means of living, were described in some detail in the Seoni District (1907) Gazetteer. It contained a factual report prepared by Mr. Chapman, the then Deputy Commissioner of the District. Thus, he wrote "Many master allow their servants to glean their fields for nothing. In other places the result of the gleaning is divided in different proportions between masters and gleaners. At the time of the cutting of the wheat harvest there is always a great movement among the labouring classes. Like the hop pickers at home, whole families will travelling distances to places where plenty of harvesting is going on. Almost all the inhabitants of the Gond quarter keep goats, pigs and fowls, but with the exception of the Ahirs very few have cattle". Gazetteer goes on to add that they were generally insufficiently supplied with agricultural implements and their ploughing was usually done with hired bullocks.

As for the Ahirs, they worked as graziers either for the community in general or for individual employers, bred cattle and made *ghi* or other milk products. Their male buffaloes were bought up by *Mukeris* and driven down in large herds to Chhatisgarh for sale. The Ahirs, in those days, however, were described to have consumed little milk themselves. The *Mehras* and *Pankas* were the weavers of coarse cloth and were the class from which *kotwars* were generally recruited. The Gond, who as a class, was said to be a chronic debtor, appeared unable to retain any good land in his possession. No sooner his holding yielded anything valuable it usually passed to his employer towards whom the Gond labourer used to look for pecuniary assistance in all domestic occurrences.

Thus, it would seem that, people of all the lower classes in general, in the past were very poor and debt-ridden. Money-lenders and most of the merchants or landlords could apparently be counted among the few who were rich or at least financially well off. While the agriculturists in the post Independence era have generally benefitted through various land reforms the most improved lot may be that of the cultivating labourers mostly Gond who have largely become owners of land in their own right.

Agricultural Classes

At present, the standard of living is referred not merely in terms of living conditions but also as a minimum required status for a family. As such, a good or even a moderate standard of living is still a far cry for most of the people. However, some comparative idea of the financial status of the various agriculturist families can be had from the respective size of their holdings. As to the cultivators, interest in land and the size of their holding the census (1961) observations based on 20 per cent sample survey could fairly be called conclusive and applicable to all house holds in general. Thus, of these households 79.2 per cent were owners of the land, 5.9 per cent cultivated land taken on lease from others and the remaining 14.9 per cent cultivated land partly taken on lease from others. The figures thus indicated that full absentee landlordism was of a small order while partial absentee landlordism was comparatively of a higher order.

Regarding the size of holdings, it came out that roughly 3 per cent of the rural cultivating households cultivated holdings of less than one acre in size while 7.5 per cent cultivated holdings between one and 2.5 acres in size. Thus, the living conditions for one out of every 10 households could still be said to be as meagre as of the past and they needed to look up to other subsidiary occupations for taking out their living. Then a little more than 35 per cent of the households together cultivated holdings between the range of 2.5 and 7.5 acres. Even these, in the view of paucity of large scale irrigation could be classed as uneconomic and could ill afford anything in the name of standard of living. Besides, 21.6 per cent of the households cultivated land between 7.5 and 12.5 acres each and their condition depending on the type of soil and the size of their family could be called economic or otherwise. Hence, these more than two-thirds of the cultivating households owing land below 12.5 acres each could be called as not very well off, economically.

Above them were placed the 5.2 per cent of cultivating households with 12.5 to 15 acres of land while still above and many more, i.e., 17.8 per cent cultivated land from 15 to 30 acres in size. These could generally be described as good economic holdings while the 9.1 per cent and still less, 3 per cent of the households respectively, cultivating more than 30 and 50 acres holdings could definitely come among the affluent in rural set-up.

THE GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

From the point of view of a gainful source of earning the agriculture by far the biggest means of livelihood could only be said to be a make-shift source of employing all most all the rural manpower. Thus, in addition to the rapidly increasing number of educated unemployed the rural mass also contained a large unexploited potential for the prospective investors. There could possibly come with profit a number of forest based industries as well as food products. Even now the manufacturer of wood and wooden products together with the food products made for the largest share of the various household industries as a source of employment. Besides these, a few household cotton textile works also offered some employment. But the fact that, household industries themselves had only 4 out of every 100 workes as per 1961 census emphasized the wide scope for their development. The headquarters towns of Seoni and Lakhnadon, however, had the various government services as the most important sector of employment in their area. Jobs down upto the clerk level were considered white collar jobs and were among the most sought after. Then, domestic and personal services also offered some scope for employment. Education, Transport and Communication facilities were likely to develop much faster under the successive plans and would soon be offering and increasing the means and mobility to seek better employment especially to the tribals of the district. This would further improve the position of Lakhnadon Tahsil which

in the early sixties offered much less scope for employment. However, with the increasing planned expenditure and implementation of development scheme the construction activity and investment tempo are likely to go on rising and offer greater employment opportunities.

Employment Exchanges

The District Employment Exchange, came into existence on 15th February 1963 at Seoni. The Exchange works mainly as a liaison agency between the job seekers and the employers in the district. While assisting the unemployed in seeking better and appropriate jobs it also collected manpower data from public and private sector establishments and prepared Employment Market Information Reports. The progress of its working since the date of establishment can be seen from the following data :—

Table No. IX-J0
Position At Employment Exchange

Year	Registrations	Placings	No. on Live Register
1963	2,096	248	96
1964	2,954	763	99
1965	2,521	437	1,088
1966	2,761	326	1,275
1967	2,787	225	1,533
1968	3,207	374	17,682
1969	3,167	433	2,142
1970	2,827	263	2,285
1971	3,360	433	,228
1972	4,414	4330	4,383
1973	4,325	823	3,935

Source :—District Employment Officer, Seoni.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Although there is no fixed criteria for testing the performance of the community projects in an area the object of the Development Blocks is mainly to generate a process of change and growth in rural economy and life with Government aid and by people's participation. These Blocks form the basic unit for implementing the development schemes on the local level and contain enough flexibility in their budget allocations to suit various requirements of the area.

Community Development Programme in the district was launched with the establishment of the *Kahani-Khas* (Ghansore) N.E.S. Block in Lakhnadon tahsil on Gandhi Jayanti of 1953. Converted into a Community Development Block on 2nd October, 1956, it had after a few years reverted to Stage II.

One more Block, the Seoni Block was added to it just next year which also reverted to the stage II on 2nd October, 1959. Then in the year 1956 were added two more Blocks with their headquarters at Barghat and Lakhnadon. After these four Blocks came up Kuria the fifth Block in Seoni tahsil which was inaugurated on 1st April, 1958. The sixth and seventh Development Blocks of the district had their headquarters at Chhapara in Lakhnadon tahsil and at Keolari in Seoni tahsil and were established on the 1st April of the year 1960 and 1961, respectively. The last to come was the Chanora Block in Lakhnadon tahsil on 2nd October, 1962, and thus, by then the district was completely covered by these eight Development Blocks. After their activities being temporarily in abeyance some time due to State policy and Plan holiday they have again come to the fore as the basic units of local development and have been functioning on a uniform basis.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The District is the basic territorial unit of administration in India. The Collector, as the head of the district administration, is the key functionary of the Government, having large powers and wide responsibilities. In many ways he is link between the State Government and the people. He is the custodian of law and order and the pivot of local administration. He is the Chief Executive Officer of the District and, as such, he exercises general supervision over various departments with regard to their non-technical work. Co-ordination of the activities of various departments, control over local self government bodies execution of Government schemes and miscellaneous functions with regard to panchayats, census, election and relief measures in time of emergencies like floods famines, epidemics, etc., also come within his purview. The powers and duties of the Collector have assumed much greater importance after Independence. His work of collection of land revenue and maintenance of law and order are not considered as important as his role in the allround development of the district—economic, social and cultural.

Collectorate

The Collector, Seoni, is assisted by 6 Deputy Collectors. The District is divided into 2 Sub-divisions. Two of the Deputy Collectors are incharge of these sub-divisions. The remaining four Deputy Collectors assist the Collector in the day-to-day routine work. The organisational set-up of the Collectorate may be described under three main groups of functions of the Collector, namely, (1) Land Revenue and Land Records, (2) Law and Order and (3) Development.

For the administration of the first group of subjects the District is divided into two sub-divisions, co-terminous with two tahsils of Seoni and Lakhnadon. As already stated each sub-division is under the charge of a Sub-divisional Officer of the rank of a Deputy Collector. There is a Tahsildar in each of the two tahsils with an additional Tahsildar posted at Seoni alongwith Naib Tahsildars posted thereto. Four Naib Tahsildars are also posted at Lakhnadon.

At the village-level the land revenue and land records work is carried on by Patwaris whose office in the past was hereditary. The villages are grouped into 14 Revenue Inspector's circles and 268 Patwari Circles with each Patwari Circle embracing about 4 to 6 villages. The Patwaris work under the immediate supervision of Revenue Inspector. The number of Revenue Inspector's and Patwari Circles for the two tahsils are given below :

Table No. X-1

Sl. No.	Name of Tahsil	Name of Revenue Inspector Circle	No. of Patwari Circle
1. Seoni		Seoni-1	15
		Seoni	5
		Bandol	21
		Keolari	21
		Palari	20
		Baoma	20
		Barghat	22
		Gopal Ganj	20
		Total 8	144
2. Lakhnadon		Lakhnadon	20
		Dhuma	20
		Ghunsore	21
		Kahani	21
		Ganeshganj	21
		Chhapara	21
		Total	6
			124
		GRAND TOTAL	14
			268

At the district level a Superintendent of Land Records, assisted by two Assistant Superintendents of Land Records, supervises the work of Revenue Inspectors and Patwaris.

There is also a Consolidation Officer in the District with headquarters at Seoni functioning since 9th February 1972 with the help of 2 Assistant Superintendents of Land Records, 30 Revenue Inspectors and usual staff.

Law and Order

In the maintenance of Law and Order the Collector, as District Magistrate is assisted by a team of Magistracy and the police. The Police force of the District is headed by a Superintendent of Police. Both the Sub-Divisional Officers act as Sub-Divisional Magistrates to assist the Collector. All the remaining Deputy Collectors have also been delegated the powers of Magistrate First Class to assist the District Magistrate and are styled as Executive Magistrates. Besides, back the Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars have also been declared as Executive Magistrates; the Tahsildars having powers of Magistrate II and Class and the Naib Tahsildars enjoying the powers of Magistrate Third Class.

Development

The Collector is assisted by respective Sub-Divisional Officers in the work relating to development in the District who in their turn are assisted by respective Block Development Assistants. The District is divided into eight Development Blocks, viz., Lakhnadon, Barghat, Keolari, Ghunsore, Seoni, Dhanora, Kurai and Chhapara. Each Block is headed by a Block Development Assistant, who in their turn are assisted by a Progress Assistant and usual staff. Each of the 8 Blocks is provided with one Extension Officer each from Veterinary and Agriculture Departments. Besides, 7 Co-operative Extension Officers and 4 Social Education Officers are also deputed to these blocks. Each Block is also provided with Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas as per given below :

Table No. X-2

Name of the Block	No. of Gram Sevaks	No. of Gram Sevikas
Seoni	16	3
Barghat	17	..
Keolari	20	5
Kurai	10	1
Dhanora	11	1
Ghunsore	7	1
Chhapara	10	1
Lakhnadon	11	1
TOTAL	102	13

Other Functions

Apart from the three main groups of subjects described above, the Collector has other statutory and non-statutory functions to perform. For instance, the Collector is vested with statutory powers under Excise Act (1915), amended in 1958 so as to enable him to implement the policy with regard to excise and prohibition.

For the purpose of implementing Excise Act the District is divided into 5 circles. Headed by District Excise Officer, there were 2 Excise Inspectors and 13 Sub-Inspectors in the District in February, 1974, to assist him.

The control of the District Treasury and Sub-treasuries is also vested in the Collector. The District Treasury is located in the Collectorate building Seoni, and the Sub-treasury is located at Lakhnadon. The Treasury has been provided with an independent Treasury Officer of Madhya Pradesh Accounts Services while the Sub-treasury at Lakhnadon is looked after by the Tahsildar, Lakhnadon.

The Collector is also charged with authority under Registration Act. In this work he is assisted by a Deputy Collector who is ex-officio District Registrar. There are two Sub-Registrars posted one each at Seoni and Lakhnadon.

Miscellaneous Duties

The Collector has also to look after Food and Civil Supplies, Nazul work, Consolidation of Land, Elections, etc. The Deputy Collectors incharge of these branches assist the Collector in the discharge of his duties.

Food and Civil Supplies

To look after the Food and Civil supplies in the District, a Food Officer is posted to assist the Collector. The Food Officer is assisted by an Assistant Food Officer, 7 Food and Civil Supply Inspectors, 2 Assistant Food and Civil Supply Inspectors and usual staff.

Nazul

To look after the Nazul work, one of the Deputy Collectors is posted as Nazul Officer with usual staff. The Nazul Officer looks after the work of Consolidation of land also.

The Collector is also associated with a number of official and non-official committees in the District. Notable among them is the District Advisory Committee. The Collector is the Convener of this Committee which consist of several non-officials of the District such as Members of Legislative Assembly and Parliament elected from the District, Sarpanchas of Mandal Panchayats, all Presidents of Municipal Councils, the Chairman of the Central Co-operative Bank, etc. The Committee mainly advises the Collector on problems purely of local character affecting the general public interest.

The Collector works as the agent of the State Government in the District, and is the chief co-ordinating authority at the district level. In order to strengthen his position as the Chief Administrator and Chief Co-ordinator of the District, the State Government has conferred upon him various powers. The Collector has been authorised to issue instructions to any district level officer, excepting those of the judiciary, labour and sales tax departments, almost of mandatory nature. But in the event of the district officer concerned feeling that the instructions issued are either wrong or impracticable he could refer the matter to the Commissioner of the Division who has been authorised to take the final decision in consultation with the Head of the Department concerned. Besides, the Collector has been empowered to inspect the district offices. Further, every important scheme to be implemented in the District has to be brought to the notice of the Collector so that he could keep an eye on the progress of the work.

Other District Level Offices

The list of other divisional and district level officers who are administratively under the control of their own heads of departments are as under:—

1. District & Sessions Judge, Seoni.
2. Superintendent of Police, Seoni.
3. Civil Surgeon, Seoni.
4. District Family Planning and Health Officer, Seoni.
5. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Seoni.
6. Divisional Forest Officer, North-Seoni.
7. Divisional Forest Officer, South-Seoni.
8. Divisional Forest Officer, Central-Seoni.
9. Divisional Forest Officer, Lumber Division, Seoni.
10. Executive Engineer, P. W. D., (B & R), Seoni.

11. Executive Engineer, National Highways, Seoni.
12. Superintending Engineer, Upper Wainganga, Seoni.
13. Executive Engineer, Wainganga Canal, Keolari.
14. Executive Engineer, Wainganga Project, Seoni.
15. Executive Engineer, Upper Wainganga Planning and Survey Division, Seoni.
16. Executive Engineer, Survey and Investigation Bench Project, Seoni.
17. Executive Engineer, P. H. E., Seoni.
18. Executive Engineer, Irrigation (Godawari Bank), Seoni.
19. Manager, Govt. Milk Supply Scheme, Seoni.
20. Deputy Director, Rural Industrial Project, Seoni.
21. Deputy Registrar, (Handloom) Cooperative Societies, Seoni.
22. Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Seoni.
23. District Education Officer, Seoni.
24. District Panchayat and Welfare Officer, Seoni.
25. District Employment Officer, Seoni.
26. District Excise Officer, Seoni.
27. District Statistical Officer-cum-District Registrar, Births and Deaths, Seoni.
28. Superintendent, Reformatory School, Seoni.
29. Company Commandant, Home Guards, Seoni.
30. Assistant Sales Tax Officer, Seoni.
31. Assistant Director of Industries, Seoni.
32. Assistant Publicity Officer, Seoni.
33. Consolidation Officer, Seoni.
34. Inspector, Weights and Measures, Seoni.
35. District Livestock Officer, Seoni.
36. Assistant Director of Fisheries, Seoni.
37. District Marketing Officer, Seoni.
38. District Organiser, Tribal Welfare, Seoni.
39. Divisional Engineer, M. P. E. B., Seoni.
40. Assistant Engineer, Tubewells, Seoni.

The One Central Government Office located in the District is of the Railways.

Railways

The office of the Station Master, Railway Station, Seoni, is functioning since 1910. The Station Master, Seoni, has jurisdiction over the Railway Stations of Seoni, Nanipur (ex) to Karabih (out). He works under the administrative control of the Divisional Superintendent of South Eastern Railways, Nagpur.

In his work the Station Master is mainly assisted by Divisional Transport Inspector, Chhindwara and Assistant Engineer, South Eastern Railways, Chhindwara. Yet another office of the Permanent Way Inspector is also functioning at Seoni.

History of Land Revenue System

The pattern of land revenue administration, as has emerged in Seoni District, owes its origin to the system adopted by British Government in its session in 1818. Prior to this, the Gond and Maratha Governments did not recognise any kind of rights in land and the cultivators were only protected by the strong custom enjoining hereditary tenure. The rule of the Gonds was never oppressive, but the policy of the Marathas was latterly directed to extortion of the largest possible revenue. Rents were generally collected direct, and leases of villages were granted only for very short terms.

The measure, however, which contributed largely towards impoverishment of the country was the levy of the revenue before the crops could be cut and sold. There were three instalments for paying rents; first, *Saoni* in July, second *Aghani* in October, and third *Chatti* in February. This made borrowing necessary in every village. The result was that a tenant had frequently to give over the whole produce of his field, in lieu of the amount borrowed by him for payment of the exorbitant rent and its interest and had again to borrow for food. In fact, this system was largely responsible for impoverishment of the peasantry.

It is reported that in 1810, eight years before coming under British rule, Seoni had paid a revenue of more than three lakhs of rupees, but in the interval the exactions of the last Maratha ruler Appa Sahib and the depredations of the Pindaris had caused the annual realisations to shrink to less than half of this sum. Before the British took charge of this District a tax of one lakh of rupees was ordered to be levied to meet the expenses of the marriage of Appa Sahib. This exaction distressed the public and ruined many persons. When the Bhonsla ruler fought a war against the British at the close of the year 1817, every rupee was called for that could be forced out of the unfortunate inhabitants. Hence, the professional money-lenders had enjoyed great power and importance in the economy of the Seoni District. They actually used to pay the revenue, and in return try to recoup himself from the cultivators (borrowers).

Early British Settlement

On the date of the cession in early January, 1818, the land revenue of the District stood at Rs. 51,805. The short term settlements were made in which the attempts were made to realise a revenue equal to or higher than that nominally paid to the Marathas from the District. Three years after the cession in 1818 the demand rose to Rs. 1.76 lakhs in a quinquennial settlement following on two annual ones. This was succeeded by a decennial settlement on a slightly reduced demand. In 1835 a settlement of 20 years was made

by Major Low which lowered the revenue to Rs. 1.34 lakhs. The demands of the previous six settlements were at Rs. 1,56,520 under first years' settlement, Rs. 1,56,889 under second years' settlement, Rs. 1,75,986 under first 5 years' settlement, Rs. 1,74,114 under second 5 years' settlement, Rs. 1,67,892 under 10 years' settlement and Rs. 1,33,504 under 20 years' settlement.¹

Even under this greatly decreased assessment some portions of the District broke down and the demand had to be revised, especially in parts of the Lakhaadon tahsil inhabited by Gonds. The settlement had at first been of a progressive nature, the proposed demand being enhanced slightly at intervals of five years. But this system was abandoned and the revenue of the second quinquennial period was retained for the remainder of the settlement. This was due to expire in 1855, but the disturbances consequent of the Great Revolt of 1857, prevented any arrangements for revision. The settlement continued in force until 1864-65, when the 30 years' settlement was introduced. The rise of prices beginning about 1861 and accentuated by the cotton crisis, following on the American war, restored prosperity and revived the demand for land.

The 30 years' Settlement

A survey was undertaken and completed between the years 1859 and 1863. The settlement was completed between the years 1860 and 1865 by Captain Thomson. Under this settlement, for Seoni pargana, the village papers, where they were available, were taken as guide for assessment for enhancement of the rent, and each village was assessed on its own merits. Where the village papers appeared to understate the assets, they were discarded and valuation rates were adopted. The villages were marked off into *chaks* or groups of villages, each *chak* was grouped into classes for each of which an all-round area rate was adopted. The area rates used in pargana Katangi were based on the rates of incidence of the revenue, paid by highly assessed villages on the cultivated area. In pargana Lakhaadon the rates were deduced from the rents paid by and recorded against the tenants in *muafi* villages, where the proprietors had no object in concealing their assets.

As a result of this settlement, the revenue had increased from Rs. 1.37 to Rs. 2.27 lakhs or by 67 per cent. It is reported that the District showed steady progress in agricultural prosperity till the year 1893-94, when a succession of poor seasons and failures of the harvest began. In the years 1895-97, when attestation for revision of settlement took place, the net cropped area had increased from 5.44 to 6.52 lakhs acres or by 20 per cent and the cultivated area from 5.50 to 8.23 lakhs acres or by 60 per cent, while the average irrigated and that devoted to double crops gained largely. During this period, the prices of agricultural produce had increased by nearly 100.

1. Land Revenue Settlement of Seoni District, 1867, p. 59.

148

SEONI

per cent over those on which the 30 years' settlement was based. The area held by tenants had increased from 4 lakhs to 6.60 lakhs acres and their payments from Rs. 2.42 to Rs. 4.69 lakhs. The home farm of the proprietors had increased from 1.49 to 2 lakhs acres.

Settlement of 1896-98

Prior to the revision of the settlement a new cadastral survey was undertaken in the District. This was completed between 1887 and 1892. A traverse survey was also conducted, showing the boundaries of the villages simultaneously. The cost of the cadastral survey was Rs. 30 and the traverse survey Rs. 35 per square mile. The settlement was conducted during the years 1895 and 1898. The assessment was made according to the soil unit system. The different soils and positions distinguished. The area held by *malik-makbujas* decreased from 9000 to 8400 acres, in spite of the fact that about 1200 acres of land was retained rent free by proprietors. Their rents were also increased from Rs. 3300 to Rs. 4400 or by 35 per cent, because the assessment of the land held rent free against *malguzar* by former proprietors. Their average rate was raised from 5 annas 7 pies to 8 annas 5 pies. Absolute occupancy tenants held 47,000 acres as against 68,000 at the previous settlement. The number of holdings were about 2400. The rental was raised from Rs. 31,000 to Rs. 37,000 or by 21 per cent, the acreage rate being 12 annas 6 pies as against 9 annas 10 pies at the 30 years' settlements.

The occupancy tenants held 2.07 lakhs acres included in about 12,000 holdings, against 97,000 acres in 1864-65, the increase was due to its acquisition by 12 years' possession under the old Tenancy Act. Occupancy right over a portion of the *Sir* land was also awarded to some *thekadars* or farmers who were not found to be entitled for the protected status with the consent of the village proprietors. The payments of Occupancy tenants were raised from Rs. 1.28 lakhs before revision to Rs. 1.45 lakhs, giving an enhancement of Rs. 17,000 or 13 per cent. The average rate imposed was 11 annas 2 pies as against 9 annas 11 pies both at the 30 years' settlement and before revision.

The area held by ordinary tenants was 4.04 lakhs acres as against 2.5 lakh acres at the previous settlement. Of this 3.14 lakh acres were held by tenants who had no land in other right and 90,000 by tenants of superior class in ordinary rights. The number of holdings was 26,500. The actual land held in this right had very largely changed over many holdings held in ordinary right at the 30 years' settlement, this decrease was much more than counter balanced by the large expansion of cultivation which had taken place. The rental of ordinary tenants had been Rs. 1.51 to Rs. 2.50 lakhs and the rental per acre being 9 annas 7 pies and 10 annas, respectively. The rental was raised at revision of settlement at 10 annas 6 pies. The area held by tenants had increased from 4.06 lakhs to 6.59 lakhs acres during the period of settlement while their payments had risen from Rs. 2.42 to Rs. 4.09 lakh. This was increased at revision to Rs. 4.47 lakhs.

The home farm of the proprietors increased during 30 years' settlement from 1.49 lakhs to 2.00 lakhs acres. Being of better quality, the home farm land was valued at 12 annas 10 pies as against the average ryot rate of 10 annas 10 pies. Nearly 10,000 acres were held rent free from the village proprietors as grants for special reasons or in lieu of service.

The following table comprises the assets taken into 30 years' settlement with those calculated at the 1896-98 :—

Table No. XI-1
Total Assets

	As Settlement of 1864-65	At Settlement of 1896-98
	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Malik Makbujas'</i> payments and tenants rental	2,46,000	4,52,000
Rental value of <i>Sir</i> and <i>Khud kasht</i> land	91,000	1,68,000
Miscellaneous income	4,000	11,000
Total	3,41,000	6,31,000

The total assets as announced were Rs. 5.14 lakhs as against Rs. 6.31 lakhs as assessed, the decrease being due to the relinquishment of holdings in the famine of 1896-97.

The new settlement came into force from 1898, at a time when the district had entered upon a cycle of bad years of the famines of 1897 and 1899 after a period of much prosperity.

Under the orders of Government of India, this settlement was extended to the normal period of 20 years and was to expire in 1916-1917. Excluding the preliminary traverse survey the total cost of the settlement was Rs. 2.31 lakhs or a little more than Rs. 90 per square mile.

The total area included in the holdings in 1904-05 was 0.23 lakhs acres in *malguzari* and 0.67 lakhs in the ryotwari area or a total of nearly a million. The *malguzari* land was distributed as follows. An area of 1.34 lakhs acres or 15 per cent of the total consisted of *sir* land and 0.86 lakh acres or 9 per cent of *Khud kasht* land. *Malik makbujas'* held only 8,000 acres or under 1 per cent of the total area, absolute occupancy tenants 43,000 acres or 5 per cent, occupancy tenants 1.60 lakhs acres or 17 per cent and ordinary tenants 481 lakh acres or 52 per cent while 9,000 acres were held rent-free from the proprietors or in lieu of service. Since the settlement, the area held by absolute occupancy tenants has decrease by 5,000 acres and that belonging to occupancy tenants has decreased by 5,000 acres and that belonging to occupancy tenants by 46,000, while ordinary tenants have increased their holding by 77,000 acres. A substantial area of land held in the superior classes of tenants right has been relinquished during the bad seasons. More than 34,000 acres were sub-let in 1904-05 at the average rate of 13 annas 3 pies an acre as against the rate of 15 annas recorded at the last settlement.

Short-term Settlement

Before this settlement, a short-term revision was announced for 12 years which were to be terminated in 1908 in the Seoni tahsil and 1909 in Lakhnadon tahsil. This was done in order to fit in with the roster of settlements and maps correction preliminary to revision in 1905-06. But the roster was completely upset by the famines and therefore this settlement continued for 20 years, upto 1917-18.

Settlement of 1916-1920

Under this settlement, the sanctioned enhancement was fixed at 33 per cent for either tahsil and the enhancement actually imposed was as :—

Table No. XI-2
Enhancement of Rent

Tahsil	Rent		Enhancement
	At announcement	As announced	
	Rs.	Rs.	
Seoni	3,11,889	4,16,162	33
Lakhnadon	1,70,055	2,20,679	30
	4,81,944	6,39,841	32

The acreage rate as announced was Rs.0-13-10 as compared with Rs. 0-11-0 at attestation. The revised incidence was .90 and the acreage rates paid for the principal Soil per acre were Rs.1-11-0 for *Morand*, Rs.1-6-6 for *Morand*, II-I Rs.0-14-5 for *Morand* III, Re.0-9-0 for *Mutbarra* and Re.0-3-7 for Barra soils. The following statement shows the actual rental enhancement by rights :—

Table No. XI-3
Rental Enhancement

Rights	Rental in Rupees		Percentage	Acreage Rate	
	At announcement	As announced		Per cent	As revised
Absolute-occupancy	33,044	45,654	41	0-12-7	1-1-11
Occupancy	1,04,677	1,46,622	40	0-11-3	0-15-7
Ordinary	3,45,223	4,44,565	29	0-10-9	0-13-10
Total	4,81,944	6,36,841	32	0-11-0	0-13-0

As regards the *malguzari* and *thekedari*, villages combined, the total *kamil-jama* was announced at Rs. 4,65,955, an increase of 60 per cent. The term of this settlement was fixed groupwise as follows :—

Table No. XI-4
Term of Settlement

Tahsil	Group	From 1st July	To 30th June	Years
Seoni	Bandol, Haveli, Gopal ganj, Seoni Kuraj and Ari.	1917	1937	20
	Ugti, Barghat and Kahhiwar	1918	1937	19
	Keolari & Northern Ganga	1919	1938	10
Lakhnadon	The whole Tahsil	1919	1939	20

The ryotwari villages were dealt with according to the group in which they fell. Previously, the rents and incidences varied largely and the average rate per acre was only Re.0-4-11 with an incidence of 51. An allround enhancement of 38 per cent was imposed and the revised revenue was fixed at Rs.33,877 against Rs. 24,163, i.e., increased Rs. 9,714. The revision of settlement has resulted in raising the total gross revenue by Rs.1,83,717 as shown below :—

Table No. XI-5
Revision of Settlement

	Present	Revised	Increase
Malguzari Villages	2,80,167	4,47,720	1,67,553
Thekedari Village	11,785	18,235	6,450
Ryotwari Villages	24,163	33,877	9,714
Total	3,16,115	4,99,832	1,83,717

The cost of settlement including map correction amounted to Rs. 4,22,243 that is about 2½ times of the gross revenue enhancement.

This settlement was to expire between 1937 to 1939, but no further settlement operations could be undertaken. The lands which were not assessed at this settlement, can be assessed by the Collector in accordance with the provisions in the Land Revenue Code. By the amendments in Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code Act, 1967 (No.6 of 1967) land revenue on all uneconomic holding meaning all agricultural holdings not exceeding 7.5 acres or holdings with a land revenue not exceeding Rs. five has been abolished.

Siwai or manorial income of the proprietors included receipts from various miscellaneous sources, such as, the cultivation of *singhara* or water-nut in tanks, but mainly represented forest income. As reported in the old Seoni Gazetteer, this income had no substantial revenue, which was only Rs. 14,600 of which Rs.11,300 were included in the assets for the purpose of assessment. The income was mainly derived in this District from myrobalans, *Mahua*, timber and grass. At the time of 1916-1920 settlement the *siwai* income of Rs.11,000 from forests, Rs. 9,100 from *Mahua*, Rs.8,600 from *harra*, Rs.7,900 from lac, Rs.3,300 from grazing, Rs.2,400 from *gulli*, Rs. 2,300 from mangoes, Rs.1,700 from fisheries and Rs. 1,400 from *Chiroji*. These were the estimated amounts over several years based on actuals where such were available. At the 30 years' settlement Rs.3,779 was assessed and at 1880's settlement, it was raised to Rs.11,321 as against an estimate of Rs. 14,616 (of 1916-20 settlement).

Consequent upon the abolition of *malguzari* system, the *siwai* income which swelled the coffers of the *malguzari* now goes to the public exchequer.

Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses

The annual demand and collection of land revenue in the District from 1956-57 to 1973-74 are given in the following table :

TABLE No. XI-6
Receipts from Land Revenue (In Rupees)

Year	Demand		Collection
	Regular	Arrears	
1	2	3	4
1956-57*	4,13,650	3,07,183	3,83,503
1960-61	9,63,800	4,16,300	10,27,100
1968-69	..	..	2,67,727
1969-70	5,02,153	2,39,254	4,14,392
1970-71	7,27,681	5,35,123	8,15,461
1971-72	7,27,125	4,45,581	7,88,913
1972-73	8,88,819	4,12,251	5,51,076
1973-74	8,88,872	6,13,513	8,89,661
1974-75	8,80,058	6,13,233	7,66,028

* For the period 1st November, 1956 to 31st March, 1957.

Source—Collector, Seoni.

The Land revenue is deposited by land-holders in two instalments, the first is payable on 15th January and the second on 15th April. A month after the due dates a defaulter's list is prepared by the Patwari and sent to the Tahsildar for recovery. For the collection of land revenue, the Government has appointed Patels. They are paid a commission on the amount realised by them. In 1973-74, Patels numbering 1627 were connected with the land revenue collection work. The commission disbursed to the Patels totalled Rs. 44,414 in 1970-71, Rs. 53,002 in 1971-72 and Rs. 50,173 in 1973-74.

As an experimental measure, the Gram Panchayats numbering 20 at the end of March, 1971 have also been associated with this work. Out of this, 7 are not performing this work at present.

Besides land revenue, some cesses on land revenue have been levied by the Government from time to time. The earliest cess was the Patwari cess which was prescribed at the first regular settlement for the maintenance of Patwaris. In the year 1904-05, the demand on account of the road, school and postal cesses was Rs.17,000 for additional rates Rs.6,000 and for Patwari cess Rs.17,000. The last two cesses were abolished later on and thus substantial relief was afforded to the agriculturists. The road cess was calculated at 2 per cent on the land revenue, the education cess at 2 per cent and the postal cess at 1 per cent. After the postal cess was abolished, the tenants paid a contribution of 3 pies to one anna in a rupee of rental to the Kotwar.

The position regarding cesses underwent a change in 1920 when under the Central Provinces Local Self Government Act, 1920 (IV of 1920) only a cess at the rate of 6½ per cent of land revenue for maintenance of schools, roads and for general purposes was levied in the District. Another change took place in 1946 when a Panchayat cess was introduced under the Central Provinces and Berar Panchayat Act, 1946 (I of 1947). This cess was payable at the rate of 6 pies per rupee on land revenue and rentals of proprietors and tenants; (other than sub-tenants) respectively in respect of land held by them in the Gram Panchayat area and the proceeds were paid to the Gram Panchayat concerned. When the District Councils were replaced by Janapada Sabhas in 1948 a Janapada Cess was imposed under the Central Provinces and Berar Local Government Act, 1948 (XXXVIII of 1948). This was calculated at 30 pies per rupee and the proceeds were payable to the Janapada Sabha concerned.

Under the Panchayat Act of 1960, a cess at the rate of 10 paise per rupee is levied, at the Panchayat level. The table below shows the annual demand and collection of cesses and receipts from *siwai* (miscellaneous) income.

TABLE No. XI-7
Annual Cesses and Siwai (In Rs.)

Year	Cesses		Siwai
	Demand	Collection	
1970-71	1,62,525	1,35,330	..
1971-72	1,63,021	1,65,842	2,15,475
1972-73	1,63,301	1,66,813	1,59,249
1973-74	91,402	1,03,772	1,46,321

Source : Collector, Seoni.

Relations between Landlords and Tenants

Though the relation between landlords and tenants had been cordial but sometimes under the old Maratha system of assessment, the Patel or head man of each village used to harass the cultivators. He had certain duties such as to collect the rents from the tenants and pay them into the Government.

treasury and in return he used to get one-eighth of the gross collections. In addition to his fixed duties, the Patel had certain powers in criminal matters and was more or less the arbitrator of the village destinies. Office of the Patel was not hereditary, but in fact, it did descend from father to son, so long as the duties of the office were duly performed and the revenue demand was regularly paid. But under the British rule, the position changed. Instead of the Patel or headman, a *malguzar* was introduced, who had as many villages as he had the means of controlling without detriment to the interest of the Government. Subsequently, a number of new men came in as *malguzars*, who in a few cases were in the position of cultivators of their holdings. Under the Maratha Government, there was no trace of such a thing as tenant right or prescriptive rights of occupancy, existing under any term, except in case of *muafidars* and grants of land for religious or charitable purposes.

It is reported that the *malguzars*, i.e., the party who engaged to pay the Government revenue on the land, did what he liked with all the tenures in the land, so far as he had the powers to do so.

The settlement operations had played a very important part that the status of the *malguzars* as the proprietorship of the village and proceedings for the conferment of proprietary rights were recognised. The headmen were converted into landlords, the ryots as their tenants, but the exercise of the proprietors' powers was limited by the grant of special protection to a large proportion of the cultivators, according to the interest they held in land resulting in the evolution of a series of different tenancy tenures.

Later on, the situation was that the *Malguzars* were nearly all money-lenders. Thus, the tenants had a dual relationship with his landlords, one that of a tenant and the other that of a debtor. It is reported that this situation had another depressing aspect. The whole of the produce of the cultivators was taken over by the landlords in satisfaction of the debt. In such conditions, though the relations between landlords and tenants were outwardly cordial, the growing enlightenment of the latter and their consequent awakening from their traditional out look of cultivators fatalism led to the increasing assertion, from time to time of their rights against the privileged position of their landlords. This resulted in a large number of suits filed by the landlords for rental arrears and ejectments.

Tenancy Act, 1883

The Government had to take certain measures in the shape of legislation for the protection of the tenancy. The Tenancy Act, of 1883 which came into effect from the 1st January, 1884, was the first enactment which defined the rights and liabilities of the then existing classes of tenants, viz., absolute occupancy tenants, occupancy tenants and ordinary tenants and provided measures against rack-renting, ejectments, etc. Under this Act, all the tenant-at-will were converted into the ordinary tenants. The right of purchasing occupancy right by the

payment of a premium equal to two-and-a half year's rental was substituted in place of the previous provision of 12 years' continuous possession. The ordinary tenants were also given the power of claiming compensation for disturbance and were protected from ejectment for non-acceptance of rental enhancement until such compensation was paid.

Tenancy Act, 1898

After a few successive amendments, this Act was replaced by a new Tenancy Act of 1898 under which the Settlement Officer was authorised to fix all rents. This enabled him to reduce the rents of ordinary tenants which he deemed excessive. At about this time, a clause was inserted in the *Wajib-ul-Urz*, which bound the *malguzars* in their dealings with the tenant to abide by the provisions of the Tenancy Act.

Tenancy Act, 1920

The Central Provinces Tenancy Act (I of 1920) re-enacted completely the tenancy law. It recognised three classes of tenants, namely, absolute occupancy tenants, occupancy tenants and sub-tenants. It abolished the class of ordinary tenants and all such tenants were converted into occupancy tenants.

Amendment in Act of 1920

No significant change took place till the Congress Ministry assumed the reins of administration in the Central Provinces. The Government appointed a Revenue Committee on the 17th August 1938, to consolidate the then existing land revenue and tenancy laws of the Province. In the meantime, Section 77 of the Tenancy Act was amended to enable a revenue officer to take action *suo motu* against a landlord for refusing to grant a receipt or for giving a defective receipt. A new section 88-A was also inserted in the Tenancy Act providing for penalty for *begar* taken by landlords again in pursuance of the recommendations of the Revenue Committee, the Tenancy Act, 1920 underwent many amendments 1939-40, under one of which it was provided that tenants of habitually let-out lands, whether held by *malik makubuzas* or by *malguzars* as *sir* or by cultivators under occupancy rights, could become occupancy tenants, thereof. Also a 12½ per cent reduction of rents was given in small holdings during 1937-38. The Government by an amendment of the Act was empowered to declare absolute occupancy tenants and occupancy tenants as *malik makubuzas* on payment to the landlord of an amount equal to 10 and 12½ times, respectively, of the rent of the holdings. By another amendment, sub-tenant of *malik-makubuzas* and tenants were also recorded as occupancy tenants, if the lands were habitually sublet. Further if *Sir* or *Khud kasht* lands were leased as one holding on or after the 1st November, 1930, the lessee could acquire the same right in *Sir* land as he would in the *Khud kasht* land and the *Sir* right in such land was extinguished.

The Land Alienation Act, 1916

The Central Provinces Land Alienation Act was enforced in 1916 for the protection on the land. The Act was helpful in preventing the aboriginals, proprietors being wiped out of existence.

Relief of Indebtedness Act.

To give further relief to the agriculturists, the Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act was enacted and came into force from 18th July 1939. This conferred powers to re-open certain transactions and to grant relief both in respect of the principal and interest and to draw up schemes for the payment of the balance of the debt.

Land Revenue of Estates Act.

The Central Provinces and Berar Revision of the Land Revenue of Estate Act came into force in 1939 which resulted in the enhancement of *Takoli* of zamindars and reduced the financial position of them, almost to the status of ordinary *malguzars*.

Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, 1950 and Agricultural Ryots and Tenants Act, 1950

For the elimination of intermediaries between the State and the tillers, two Acts, viz., the Madhya Pradesh Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act and Madhya Pradesh Agricultural Ryots and Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, were enacted in 1950. Both have facilitated the abolition of proprietary rights and the protection of tenants from ejectments, etc. The latter Act also provided the conferment of plot proprietorship right (*malik-makbuza*) on payment of a prescribed premium. The *zamindari* and *malguzari* system were abolished by the M.P. Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, 1950 (I of 1951). Under this Act all the land, grass land, jungle, trees, tanks, village sites, huts, *bazars* and fairs were vested in the State Government. The home-farm or other lands under the cultivation of the proprietors were left with him.

For the loss of the proprietary rights, the proprietors were entitled to compensation in accordance with the scale prescribed in the Act. Moreover, the petty proprietors were entitled to a rehabilitation grant. It was payable immediately and the amount of compensation was payable in instalments not exceeding eight. A special department under the name of the Land Reforms Department was constituted in the State for implementing various provisions made under this Act. Under the set-up of this Department, a Deputy Commissioner of Land Reforms was appointed in the District with Compensation-Claims Officer and other subordinate staff.

The revenue administration of the village was dealt with by the *Patwari* in the beginning, but subsequently Patels were appointed through election for this purpose. The Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act besides abolishing the *malguzari* system also aimed at giving greater security and additional rights to the tenants. For instance, the Act allowed them to hold lands in their previous rights as tenants of the State and to pay rent to the Government as payable to the ex-proprietors, thus bringing them in direct relationship with the

Government. The tenants were further given facilities to acquire plot proprietary rights in the lands held by them on payment of a nominal premium. The position in the former *malguzari* villages thus was that all cultivators other than sub-tenants; became the tenants of the State and the ex-proprietors became *malik makbuza* of the land under their personal cultivation. Persons holding service land were declared to be occupancy tenants of the State if the service was no longer required.

Land Revenue Code, 1954

To adopt the measures for the simplification of the then existing multiplicity of land tenures, the Government appointed a committee to evolve a common land revenue code whose deliberations resulted in the enactment of the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1954 (II of 1955) consolidating the current land laws of the State. This new legislation came into force from the 1st October, 1955. The Act brought the various types of land-holders under two categories. (i) *bhumiswami*, and (ii) *Bhumidhari*. Under the code all *Malik-Makbuzas*, *raiya malik* and absolute occupancy tenants were made *bhumiswami* or full proprietors of the land, while the occupancy tenants, *raiya* or *raiya sarkar* were given *bhumidharmi* right, which was almost equivalent to a proprietary right except a restriction that a *bhumidhari* could not mortgage his interest in his holding nor could such interest be attached or sold in execution of any decree or order. But a *bhumidhari* had the option to acquire *bhumiswami* right by paying three times the land revenue to the State Government.

The position of land revenue and tenant reforms was again reviewed after the new State of Madhya Pradesh was constituted which resulted into the enactment of a unified Land Revenue Code, 1959 (No. 20 of 1959) which came into force from the 2nd October 1959. It provides for the uniformity in tenure holdings, protection of tenants against arbitrary ejectment, termination of tenancy, occupancy tenants right of transfer, checking rack-renting and conferring *bhumiswami* rights on them. The Code provides for only one class of tenure-holders of land known as *bhumiswami*. A *bhumiswami* shall have rights of transfer unless at least five acres of irrigated or ten acres of unirrigated land is left with him. He has a right to mortgage. A *bhumiswami* of land is entitled to make any improvement on it for better cultivation or for any convenient use. The Code also provides for the protection of the rights of sub-tenants, who are given the status of occupancy tenants with all rights and liabilities as defined in the Code. An occupancy tenant can be conferred *bhumiswami* right on his paying 15 times the land revenue to be paid in five equal instalments. No sub-letting or leasing of land is now permitted except in very emergent cases once in three years or by certain classes of persons, such as, widows, unmarried women, minors, etc.

Details regarding the land held and land revenue paid by different kinds of tenure holders are shown in the table given on next page :—

TABLE No. XI-8
Area Occupied by Bhumiswamis and Others
(In Acres)

Year	Bhumiswami	Government Lessess	Bhoodan Dharaks	Village Servants	Occupying Tenants
1969-70	4,55,055	1,602	602	1,028	315
970-71	4,55,527	2,252	633	1,228	243
1971-72	4,55,339	2,515	656	1,333	243
1972-73	4,55,423	2,800	680	1,539	288
1973-74	4,55,423	2,893	720	1,694	220

Source : Collector, Seoni.

Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings

The Land Reforms indicated above effect more the type of tenure than the size of the property. Even so, some restrictions have been imposed in this respect too. The maximum of individual holdings in respect of future acquisition was fixed at 50 acres by the former Madhya Bharat Government. With the enactment of Madhya Pradesh on Agricultural Holdings Act, 1961, apart from inherited land, no person shall acquire more than 25 standard acres per family for dependents at the rate of 5 acres with a maximum of 25 acres as the limit.

The ceiling has been again lowered with retrospective effect from 1st January, 1972. According to the amendment, a family upto 5 members may acquire upto 18 standard acres and for an individual, it is 10 standard acres. The additional 8 standard acres have been allowed for dependents at the rate of 2 standard acres for every extra dependent member limited to 18 acres. For the purpose of this Act, a standard acre means one acre irrigated land from Government source available for more than one crop, in a year or two acres seasonal irrigated land from Government source available for at least one crop or three acre dry land.

As regards Seoni District, the position of the agricultural holdings in 1967-68 according to the different sizes is given below :—

Table No. XI-9
Agricultural Holdings and Area

Size of Holdings (Hectare)	No. of Holdings	Area (in Hectare)
(1)	(2)	(3)
0.4	31,196	3,037
0.4 to 1.01	10,889	7,909
1.01 to 2.02	16,621	25,223
2.02 to 3.04	12,998	32,625
3.04 to 4.05	10,253	36,180
4.05 to 5.06	8,056	36,517
5.06 to 6.07	6,222	34,518
6.07 to 7.08	4,671	30,592

(1)	(2)	(3)
7.08 to 8.09	3,787	28,700
8.09 to 10.12	5,220	47,037
10.12 to 12.14	3,298	36,557
12.14 to 14.16	2,200	28,692
14.16 to 16.19	1,486	22,297
16.19 to 18.21	989	17,006
18.21 to 20.23	729	13,923
20.23 to 24.28	879	19,281
24.28 to 30.35	600	16,327
30.35 to 40.47	321	11,031
40.47 to 60.70	156	7,438
60.70 to 80.94	32	2,18
80.94 to 121.41	4	347
	1,20,607	4,57,395

Source.—Krishi Avam Pashudhan Sankhyaki, 1967-68 (Economics and Statistics Department), Vol.I, pp. 229 to 248.

It appears from the table that more than one-third of the holdings are below 2.02 hectare (below 5 Acres) of land. The number of big holdings more than 30.35 hectare (75 Acres) is only 513, which is about .4 per cent of total holdings.

Consolidation of Holdings

Alongwith the problem of small holdings, the another serious impediment to the land development and agricultural production is fragmentation of holdings in our country. The tenants in this District used to sub divide and fragment their holdings even two the extent to below five acres in size. Due to this evil practice, it becomes uneconomic and expensive to manage such fragmented plots for agricultural purposes, lying at sufficient distance from one another. The remedy lies in consolidation of holdings and for this, Government has started Scheme. This was started in the year 1961-62, in the District. Since then, the work is progressing well. The scheme covered 116 villages and consolidation of holding done in 90142.613 hectares upto 1973-74. The table below shows the annual progress of the consolidation work done in the District.

Table No. XI-10
Consolidation of Holdings

Year	No. of Villages for which schemes were preferred and confirmed	Area consolidated (in Hectares)	Khasra Number before Chakbandi	Khasra Number after Chakbandi, etc.	Reduction of Col.(5) on Col. (4) (In per centage)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1962-63	14	2623.606	3477	2699	22%
1963-64	52	12598.871	16645	13015	22%
1964-65	47	14798.170	21010	16640	21%
1965-66	34	12553.447	18934	14334	24%
1966-67	13	5835.058	7065	5877	17%
1967-68	16	5113.758	5908	4811	19%
1968-69	29	9883.172	13783	10203	26%
1969-70	16	3710.492	4307	3458	20%
1970-71	6	2006.721	1878	1496	20%
1971-72	22	7614.136	7217	5846	19%
1972-73	27	6403.288	7259	5640	22%
1973-74	27	7001.896	7785	6283	20%
Grand Total	303	90142.613	115266	90270	22

Source :—Consolidation Officer, Seoni.

BHOODAN MOVEMENT

The *Bhoodan Yagna* or land gift movement was initiated in the country in the year 1951 by Acharya Vinoba Bhave with the aim of solving the problem of landless labourers. Acharya Vinoba has said once that the landless labourers have the right to have land as they have the right to enjoy free air, water and the sun which are given by God. Land is also given by God and therefore, those, who have no land should be provided with land.

There has been impact of this Movement in this District, as in the rest of the country. For facilitating this in the State, Madhya Pradesh Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1953 (No. XV of 1953) was enacted under which a Bhoodan Yagna Board was constituted with headquarters at Nagpur. In the re-organised State of Madhya Pradesh, this Board functioned for many years for the Mehakoshal Region only with its headquarters at Narsimhapur, but later it receives an annual grant from the Government. Its office was shifted to Bhopal.

As regards Seoni District, Bhoodan Movement was started with the *padyatra* of Seth Govind Das in 1951-52. However, this could get momentum when a camp was organised from 19th October 1956 in Seoni and a *pradeshik padyatra* was organised by Dada Bhai Naik. At this time about 4,000 acres of land was received, but some of it was disapproved. For this purpose 45 parties, consisting of 200 workers, undertook tour on foot in whole of the District and persuaded the villagers to donate land. Bhoodan workers travelled in the District about 2,000 miles and 829 donors of 501 villages donated the land.

Another team also visited this District in September 1957. The Convenor was Charian Thomas, who entered from Dhuma and crossed Khawasa village of this District.

From 8th January to 10th January 1958 a provincial Conference was arranged in Seoni in which Sidhiraj Dadda, Baba Raghavdas and Jai Prakash Narain along with prominent Sarvodaya workers participated. At this moment, unfortunately Baba Raghavdas died here on 15th January 1958. During 1959-60, Ku. Nirmala Deshpande started *padyatra* from Wardha side and visited Seoni.

Besides this, from time to time the camps were also arranged on Tahsil level in the district, to propagate the ideology of *Bhoodan* Movement. From 24th November 1959 to 30th December 1959 a camp was arranged in Lakhnadon and another camp was organised in Barghat on 8th and 9th December 1959.

Acharya Vinoba Bhave had a liking for Seoni as he had been in prison here in 1942, at the time of his *Individual Satyagraha*. He has often said Seoni was his District. He visited the District twice for this purpose in 1959 and 26th August, 1965. Besides him, Prof. Gora, Dr. Patnayak, Dada Dharmadhikari, etc. have taken part in this movement in the District.

Not only this, Madhya Pradesh Sarvodaya Conference took place on 14th and 15th March 1972. During 1956 to 1974, 28 regional camps were organised,

where the land distribution programme was carried out for the District. The people have been so much enlightened in this respect that they are maintaining sarvodaya khadi Bhawan, Gandhi Bhawan, the Gandhi Prathamik Shala (primary School) in Seoni. The Gandhi Bhawan was constructed with the public contributions to carry out different types of Sarvodaya and allied activities.

As regards the *Gram Dan* the whole of the Kurwai Block has been donated besides 58 other villages in the District.

Since the inception of this Movement, till the 31st March, 1974 in all 3,444.34 acres of land have been received as bhoodan in Seoni District from 874 donors. Out of this 2842.72 acres were distributed to 820 landless families, 158.88 acres of land is left for distribution and 442.74 acres of land is found unsuitable for distribution.

Other Sources of Revenue-Central and State

The important items of Central revenue are Union Excise Duties, Income Tax and Estate Duty. Some particulars about these revenues, so far as they concern Seoni District are given in the following paragraphs.

Union Excise Duty

The main excisable commodities in the District are tobacco, vegetable non essential oils cotton fabrics, package tea, electric fans; electric, motors, china wares, etc.

Income Tax

The Income Tax was in force in the former Central provinces, as far back as 1861-62, but it was abolished in 1865-66. It was re-introduced in 1869-70, but was again abolished in 1873-74. The Income Tax was once again revived in 1887-88 and has been in force since then. Previously, the assessment and collection of this Tax formed part of the duties of the Revenue Department of the province. But after the Income Tax became a Central source of revenue, a separate administrative machinery was created for this purpose in 1922, under the Central Government. At present, the assessment and collection of Income Tax in the District is the duty of the Income Tax Officer, Jabalpur Circle with headquarters at Sagar. The Income Tax Officer has been entrusted with the assessment and collection of three more taxes, viz., Wealth Tax, Gift Tax and Expenditure Tax which have been brought into force recently. The assessment and collection of Estate Duty was also a part of the Income Tax Officer, until 1954-55 when a separate Assistant Controller of Estate Duty of the rank of Income Tax Officer, was appointed with headquarters at Indore. The receipts from this head have increased from Rs. 7,000 in 1890-91 to Rs. 4,83,051 in 1969-70 and Rs. 8,53,205 in 1973-74.

Besides land revenue, important sources of State revenue, are State Excise, Forests, Sales Tax, Stamps, Taxes on Motor Vehicles, Registration and

Entertainment Tax. A brief account of these items of taxation is given below :—

State Excise

In the year 1905-06, the excise system prevailing in this District was (i) the *Sadar* Distillery system and (ii) the outstill system. The revenue derived under the outstill system was from licence fees for the rights of manufacturing as well as for sale at the outstill and shops. The income under this head was Rs. 81,000 in 1880-81, Rs. 1,22,000 in 1890-91 and Rs. 64,000 in 1900-01. It again increased to Rs. 1,03,000 in 1904-05. The revenue for opium and *ganja* was Rs. 57,000 during the year 1904-05. The receipts have been increased to Rs. 888 lakhs in 1960 and Rs. 14,06,018 in 1973-74.

Sales Tax

This tax was introduced in the District on the 1st June 1947, under the Central Provinces and Berar Sales Tax Act, 1947 (XXI of 1947) which has since been replaced by the Madhya Pradesh General Sales Tax Act, 1958 (II of 1959). The latter Act was brought into force from the 1st April 1959. The Central Sales Tax was also introduced in the District from 1st July 1957, under the Central Sales Tax Act of 1956. Both these Acts are administered by the Sales Tax Officer. The increase in Sales Tax receipts from 1959-60 onward is due to the introduction of first point taxation. The receipts under this head were Rs. 2,26,801 in 1951 increased to Rs. 3,38,169 in 1960 and Rs. 16,13,731 in 1973-74.

Forests

The contribution of forests to the State Exchequer is not only substantial, but highest. It is derived from departmental sales and auction of timber, fuel and other products and also from the recovery of compensation and licence fees. The income was Rs. 69,000 under this head in 1880-81, increased to Rs. 81,000 in 1890-91. During the recent years, it had increased substantially from Rs. 28,41,007 in 1951 to Rs. 55,58,807 in 1960 and Rs. 1,68,27,253 in 1973-74.

Taxes on Motor Vehicles

The income under this head is derived from the registration of motor vehicles, issue of licences to drivers, conductors, etc. The receipts increased from Rs. 2,24,250 in 1969-70 to Rs. 2,85,940 in 1973-74.

Registration

The income under this head is derived from registration fee, copying fee etc. which are levied under the Indian Registration Act. The average annual receipts from registration for the years 1880-81 to 1904-05 had been Rs. 3,000 but it has increased substantially during the last two decades. It has been Rs. 1,02,067 in 1969-70, increased to Rs. 1,42,301 in 1973-74. The following

table shows the number of documents registered and the value of property for the years 1951 to 1960 :—

Table No XI-11
Statistics of Registration

Year	Number of Documents Registered	Value of Property (in Rs.)
1951	4,740	24,73,670
1955	3,969	21,29,027
1960	4,893	48,66,026

Stamps

The income under this head is from the sale of stamps of various denominations both judicial and non-judicial. The receipts under this head were Rs. 24,000 in 1880-81, Rs. 42,000 in 1890-91 and Rs. 44,000 in 1904-05. During the last two decades, it has been increased to Rs. 67,308 in 1956, Rs. 1,58,049 in 1960 and Rs. 8,70,414 in 1973-74.

Entertainment Tax

This tax is managed by the District Excise Officer, Seoni. It is a simple tax and charged at prescribed rate on the value of tickets to places of entertainment. The tax is confined to entertainment to which admission is by tickets sold for money, i.e., it is charged for the entertainment programmes like cinema shows, drama, programmes, *kabaddi* and other shows arranged on ticket basis. The receipts from this tax are increased from Rs. 2,305 in 1956 to Rs. 30,896 in 1960 and Rs. 2,42,093 in 1973-74.

CHAPTER XII LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Justice under the Marathas

Prior to 1818, when the present Seoni District was under the Marathas, there was neither a special system of courts nor written law. Besides the Royal Court, the *Kamavisdars* and *Patels* dispensed justice. *Jagirdars* also exercised judicial powers within their areas. The *Kamavisdars* either delivered the judgments themselves or called upon the Panchayats to decide the cases. The *Patels* were not empowered to decide civil cases. Such cases were decided by the Panchayats which were composed of respected persons of the village. A *Mahajan* elected by the *Patel* and public of a village decided certain types of cases, while the chiefs of certain castes called *Sethia* decided some disputes arising within their castes. Although there was no well-defined procedure for the conduct of business of the Panchayats, the proceedings of the panchayats called by the royal officials were reduced to writing. These decisions were appealable before the ruler. *Patels* could impose fines in minor criminal cases and all important cases were heard by the Government officials.

Justice under the British

The District came under the British in 1818. From this time upto 1861 'Civil Justice' was administered by a Judge and a Native Judicial Staff framed after the model of the North-West Provinces, and consisting of Principal Sudder Ameens, Sudder Ameens and Munsiffs, and under a procedure Code prepared by Mr. A. A. Roberts.¹

With the formation of Central Provinces in 1861 the posts of the Principal Sudder Ameens, Sudder Ameens and Munsiffs were all abolished and the Civil Procedure Act (No. VIII of 1859) was extended throughout the Provinces aiming at a more effective and systematic administration of law and justice. At the headquarters of the district the Deputy Commissioner and his assistant had their courts while at the tahsil headquarters, there were the 'tahsildaree Courts'. All these courts had original jurisdiction. Above them were the Appellate Courts of the Divisional Commissioner at Jabalpur and, over all, that of the Judicial Commissioner at Nagpur which was the final court of appeal.

Under this new set-up the various Civil Judges had also magisterial and fiscal duties to perform. In view of the disadvantages in combining the civil, magisterial and executive authority in the same officers, it was arranged that "the whole of the suits at the central station of each district (save those suits which come before the Deputy Commissioner) shall ordinarily be tried by one Officer, whose court will be called the Station Court"².

1. C. P. Administration Report, 1882, p. 15.

2. *ibid.* 1863, p. 30.

From 1865 onwards the judicial machinery of the district consisted of courts established under the Central Provinces Courts Act, 1865 and those which exercised authority under the Small Causes Courts Act, 1865. The former Act legalized eight grades of courts to be presided over by the Tahsildar, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner and the Judicial Commissioner. Their territorial jurisdiction and civil powers were as follows:

Table No XII-1
Jurisdiction of Courts

S. No.	Court	Jurisdiction		
		Territorial	Original	Appellate
1.	Tahsildar Grade II	Tahsil	Cases upto Rs. 100 in value.	..
2.	Tahsildar Grade I	"	Cases upto Rs. 200 in value.	..
3.	Assistant Commissioner Grade III	Part of the District	Cases upto Rs. 500 in value.	..
4.	Assistant Commissioner Grade II	"	Cases upto Rs. 1,000 in value.	..
5.	Assistant Commissioner Grade I	"	Cases upto Rs. 5,000 in value.	..
6.	Deputy Commissioner	District	Cases over Rs. 5,000 in value.	Appeals from courts at S.No. 1 to 4
7.	Commissioner	Division	"	Appeals from courts at S. No. 5 and 6.
8.	Judicial Commissioner	Province	"	Appeals from court at S.No. 7 & appellate cases from courts at S.No. 6 and 7.

It was found that there was great rush of work in Seoni tahsil. Its tahsildar had the power to hear criminal and civil cases of petty nature and had no jurisdiction in the more important cases. Hence the status of this tahsil was raised to that of a sub-division in 1866 and was placed under the charge of an Extra Assistant Commissioner with enlarged judicial powers.

A scheme was drawn up for the judicial reorganisation in 1885. According to this scheme the courts of the Munsiffs were established at the headquarters of the tahsils to relieve the burden of Tahsildars. In the districts where the appellate work was heavy, officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioner were also appointed as Civil Judges with appellate powers. Thus, the Deputy Commissioners of the districts were relieved of much of their burden. In 1889, the Naib Tahsildars were also invested with civil powers.

In the year 1900 the civil powers of the Commissioners were withdrawn as they, having lost all direct interest in civil litigation, had ceased to exercise such powers. In their places, the Judicial Assistants to Commissioners were made

Divisional Judges who began to exercise effective control over the Subordinate Courts.¹

During the next year the Deputy Commissioners of the districts were also relieved of all the civil judicial work. The court of Civil Judge was declared independent of the control of the Deputy Commissioner and Civil Judicial staff was assigned to each district.

The year 1903 witnessed the introduction of the new scheme providing for the appointment of a large number of Munsiffs and the relief of Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars from civil work. The supervision of the subordinate civil courts was also transferred from the Deputy Commissioner to the District Judge. In 1904,² the Civil Judiciary was completely separated from Administration. Civil Judicial work entirely devolved upon Divisional Judge, District Judge, Sub-Judges, and Munsiffs.

The civil judiciary underwent another reorganization in 1917, when the courts of the Divisional Judges were abolished and the Province was divided into nine districts, each district under a District and Sessions Judge.³ Seoni District was placed under the jurisdiction of District and Sessions Judge, Chhindwara.

In the year 1924 the Subordinate Judges and Munsiffs were designated as Sub-ordinate Judges, 1st class and Subordinate Judges, 2nd class, respectively. The limit of pecuniary jurisdiction of Subordinate Judges, 2nd class was raised to Rs. 5000.

Towards the close of 1931, Seoni District was amalgamated with Chhindwara District. This arrangement continued till 1956. This did not effect the set-up of Civil Judiciary much, as the District was already under the jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Judge, Chhindwara.

Criminal Judiciary

As in the case of civil judiciary, the authority to administer criminal justice also was vested in the executive staff of the District, comprising the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners and Tahsildars. The courts of the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners were located at the district headquarters while those of the tahsildars were in the interior of the district.

For the purpose of criminal work also the Tahsildars were classified into two judicial grades. The first grade Tahsildar had powers of a subordinate magistrate of 1st or 2nd class, while the second grade Tahsildar was empowered

1. *ibid.* 1900-01, p. 16.

2. *ibid.* 1904-05, p. 12.

3. *ibid.* 1917-18, p. 12.

to function as subordinate magistrate 2nd class. The Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners enjoyed powers of a subordinate magistrate, 1st or 2nd class. The Deputy Commissioner, as head of the district, had full 1st class magisterial powers. He could try all cases except those punishable with death and inflict any punishment upto seven years' imprisonment. He also had appellate powers over the subordinate magisterial courts. The Divisional Commissioner at Jabalpur had the powers of a Sessions Judge and try all cases committed to his court by the various magistrates.

The criminal courts mentioned above, save that of the Commissioner, were presided over by the respective officers singly and were not assisted by the Jury or Assessors. However, in the Commissioner's court (which functioned as a Sessions Court) he was assisted by two Assessors. Subsequently, Naib Tahsildars were appointed in tahsil places, to assist the Tahsildars and they were vested with magisterial powers of 2nd class.

For further extension of criminal judiciary in the interior of the district responsible local citizens were vested with magisterial powers in 1862-63 to serve as Honorary Magistrates. A Manual was also brought out for their general guidance. This arrangement ensured speedy disposal of cases of petty nature and also avoided the rush of work in the subordinate courts.

The practice of holding a court presided over by a single officer was modified in 1872. It was decided that while trying important cases the magistrates should take the assistance of juries consisting of three persons. This was followed by an amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure which provided that the District Magistrates and other 1st class magistrates, namely the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners could exercise summary powers. Subsequently such powers were also extended to the Honorary Magistrates. In 1890 instructions were issued that the Deputy Commissioner should take up only those cases himself where caste, religious or communal feeling were involved. With the appointment of the Judicial Assistants to the Commissioner for appellate cases, the Commissioner of Jabalpur division was mostly relieved of appellate and sessions cases.

The Central Provinces Courts Act, 1904 was amended by an Act of 1910 which provided that Benches of two Judges should sit to hear appeals from persons sentenced to death and for the confirmation of death sentences. In 1911-12 the posts of Sub-Divisional Magistrates were created. The Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners were placed in-charge of tahsils and were vested with the powers of Sub-divisional Magistrates.

As mentioned earlier, the Seoni District was abolished in 1931 and amalgamated with Chhindwara district. On the eve of Reorganisation of States in 1956, Seoni was again constituted into a separate district on the 1st October

1956. With effect from the 9th January 1936, the court of Judicial Commissioner, Nagpur became a chartered High Court. In 1956, it was transferred to Jabalpur, its present seat.

Separation of Judiciary from the Executive

It has already been described how the Civil Judiciary was separated from the Executive at the dawn of the present century. The Criminal Judiciary, however, continued to be one with the executive. The first step in this direction was taken in 1948 when some of the executive officers were appointed as Judge Magistrates. These officers were set apart for whole time magisterial work. This separation was further ensured when it was decided to have a separate class of services known as judicial service in accordance with the provision of the Constitution of India.

A complete separation was effected on 1st January 1962. Now the Executive Officers exercise judicial powers only for the prevention of crimes and maintenance of Law and Order. The Collector is thus the District Magistrate. The Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars also enjoy magisterial powers. However, these magistrates are known in the judicial parlance as Executive Magistrates. For exclusive criminal judicial work the Civil Judges Class I and Class II are vested with 1st class magisterial powers and are designated as Judicial Magistrates.

Present Organisation of Courts

At present (1974) the set up of the judiciary in the district is as follows.

(1) Court of the District and Sessions Judge

This court is situated at Seoni. Its jurisdiction extends over the whole Seoni Sessions Division which besides Seoni District includes Mandla district also. It is the highest court in the District. All civil suits of the value of Rs.50,000 and above and all civil appeals arising out of the decisions of the subordinate courts fall under the jurisdiction of this court. On the criminal side, the court has the power to hear and decide all sessions cases, that is, cases involving capital punishments and all criminal appeals and revisions. Appeals against the decisions of this court lie to the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

(2) Court of the Additional District and Sessions Judge

With its headquarters at Seoni, this court also enjoyed the territorial jurisdiction similar to that of the Court of District and Sessions Judge. Regular civil suits of the value of Rs.10,000 to Rs.50,000 and small cause cases of the value of Rs.501 to 1,000 are instituted in this court. In its civil appellate jurisdiction the court hears such appeals as are transferred to it by the District and Sessions Judge. This court entertains only such sessions cases and criminal appeals and revisions as are transferred to it by the District and Sessions Judge for disposal.

(3) Court of the Civil Judge, Class I and Chief Judicial Magistrate

This court is also located at Seoni. It exercises jurisdiction over the entire district of Seoni. On the civil side it tries all the suits of the value of Rs.5,000 to 10,000 and small cause cases of the value of Rs.201 to 500. It decides all the criminal cases occurring within its jurisdiction. Appeal from its decision lie to the District and Sessions Judge.

(4) Court of the Civil Judge Class II and Judicial Magistrate, First-Class

There are two courts of the Civil Judge, Class II and Judicial Magistrate, First Class. One is located at Seoni while the other is at Lakhnadon. They have jurisdiction over their respective tahsils in respect of civil suits upto Rs.5,000 in value and small cause cases up to Rs.200 in value. They also have the power to try all the criminal cases occurring within their jurisdiction. Appeal from their decisions lie to the District and Sessions Judge.

INCIDENCE OF CRIMES

Crimes of a serious nature like dacoity and robbery, etc. are not frequent in the District. The crimes of common occurrences are roits, house-breaking theft, kidnapping and miscellaneous crimes under Indian Penal Code. The year-wise number and frequency of these crimes in Seoni District is shown in the table given below :—

Table No. XII-2

Incidence of Crimes

Year	Dacoity	Robbery	Murder	Riot	Burglary	Cattle theft	Ordinary theft	Kidnaping	Misc. I P. C. Crimes
1952	..	7	11	22	248	40	714	7	472
1955	..	11	14	25	313	42	811	4	403
1960	..	6	14	37	269	28	475	8	417
1965	..	7	14	17	297	40	465	6	329
1966	2	18	13	16	418	39	739	10	418
1967	..	9	21	23	420	43	646	13	437
1968	..	2	27	25	320	54	444	6	491
1969	1	14	14	25	770	45	487	7	435
1970	2	4	21	25	299	42	458	8	548
1971	1	6	21	38	398	53	535	6	571
1972	1	12	15	34	266	66	332	7	366

Source : Superintendent of Police, Seoni.

The details regarding number of cognizable crimes reported, investigated and number of persons tried for them alongwith the results of such trials are shown in the table below :—

Table No. XII-3
Cognizable Crimes

Year	Number of Cases			Number of Persons		
	Reported	Investigated	Sent up for trial	Tried	Acquitted or Dis charged	Convicted
1960	1,254	1,073	812	783	192	591
1965	1,175	1,039	514	838	579	259
1966	1,673	1,521	809	1,006	404	602
1967	1,612	1,489	697	911	463	448
1968	1,289	1,231	700	955	460	495
1969	1,393	1,344	760	633	3 ³	260
1970	1,407	1,383	811	628	264	364
1971	1,629	1,571	798	744	327	417
1972	1,560	1,490	756	2,059	888	1,171
1973	1,979—	1,844	858	2,011	521	1,490

Source : Superintendent of Police Seoni. .

Gambling and Excise Offences

The following table exhibits the number of cases under Excise and Gambling Act :—

Table No. XII-4
Cases under Special Acts

Year	Excise Act	Gambling Act	Year	Excise Act	Gambling Act
1960	40	79	1967	83	7
1961	60	55	1968	69	127
1962	78	51	1969	56	235
1963	80	24	1970	44	233
1964	57	25	1971	47	233
1965	87	41	1972	55	200
1966	76	54	1973	65	299

Source : Superintendent of Police, Seoni.

Theft

The number of cases reported under this head has shown fluctuations during the last fourteen years, as is evident from the figures given below :—

Table No. XII-5
Ordinary Theft

Year	Number of Cases		Number of Persons Convicted
	Reported	Investigated	
1960	475	295	189
1965	465	330	101
1966	739	587	143
1967	646	532	176
1968	444	386	129
1969	487	438	84
1970	458	434	91
1971	535	478	156
1972	534	465	206
1973	834	699	335

Source :— Superintendent of Police, Seoni

The following are the figures of cases of miscellaneous thefts which include thefts of copper wire, cattle, cycles, motor cycles and fire arms.

Table No. XII-6
Miscellaneous Thefts

Year	Copper wire	Cattle	Cycles	Motor Cycle and Accessories	Fire Arms
1960	10	28	7	1	1
1965	1	40	25	1	1
1966	5	38	47	..	3
1967	..	43	54	..	..
1968	4	54	34	..	..
1969	2	45	37	5	..
1970	2	42	40	5	..
1971	2	53	42	4	2
1972	9	83	28	3	..
1973	7	80	77	9	..

Source :— Superintendent of Police, Seoni.

Property

The details regarding number of cases in which property was stolen and recovered, value of property stolen and recovered and percentage of value of property recovered to stolen from the years 1960 to 1973 are shown in the following table :—

Table No. XII-7

Property Stolen

Year	Number of cases in which property was		Total value of Property (in Rs.)		Percentage of Property recovered to stolen
	Stolen	Recovered	Stolen	Recovered	
1960	452	142	20,095	8,696	36.9
1965	455	147	40,624	18,325	45.1
1966	735	256	63,613	23,354	52.3
1967	646	259	3,40,175	48,528	14.3
1968	444	185	38,709	13,764	29.9
1969	487	168	44,669	12,053	26.0
1970	455	220	38,520	16,213	42.1
1971	531	258	76,252	16,853	22.1
1972	533	196	62,692	11,504	18.3
1973	827	293	1,29,553	75,523	58.3

Source : Superintendent of Police, Seoni.

ORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCE

On the formation of the Central Provinces in 1861 the police force was reorganized in 1862 so as to bring about uniformity in the force for the entire area included in these provinces. Accordingly, the Chief of the Police force in the Central Provinces was the Inspector General of Police who was assisted by Deputy Inspector General. The work at the district-level was looked after by the District Superintendent of Police, who was assisted by Assistant Superintendent. The other subordinate staff included Deputy Superintendents, Circle Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and constables. The police in the district, though departmentally independent, were to act under the general direction of the District Magistrate.

There was no village police in the Central Provinces. The *Kotwars* of the villages who represent the village police were not included in the organized constabulary. They were the servants of the *Malguzars* or village headmen. It was the responsibility of the *Malguzars* to send authorised reports to the Police and extend to them all possible assistance and co-operation as regards crime.

1- C. P. Police Administration Report, 1873, p. 33

In 1904-05 the Police force in the district consisted of 53 officers and 220 men. There was no railway police. The District had seven Police Stations and 13 outposts. The Station-houses were located at Seoni, Kalbori, Barghat, Kewari, Ghansor Lakhnadon and Chhapara.

Present Set-up

From 1960-61 the district Police force included one Superintendent of Police, 24 Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, 58 Head Constables and 260 Constables. The Superintendent is responsible for maintaining law and order in the District. From 1966-67 he is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The District has 13 Police Stations at Seoni, Bandel, Kurai, Barghat, Kanhiwara, Kewlari, Ugli, Lakhnadon, Ghanora, Ghuma, Vidrai, Ghansor and Chhapara. The table below shows the strength and cost of civil Police for some selected years from 1960-61 to 1973-74.

Table No. XII-8
Strength and Cost of Civil Police

Year	S. P. and D.S. P.	Inspectors and S. I.	Head Constables	Constable	Total Expenditure on maintenance (in Rs.)
1960-61	1	24	58	260	..
1966-67	2	24	58	260	5,85,250
1970-71	2	24	58	264	11,58,733
1972-73	2	25	58	272	9,67,997
1973-74	2	25	62	273	10,14,994

Source.— Superintendent of Police, Seoni

JAILS AND LOCKUPS

In the beginning of the present century, Seoni District had a fourth class District Jail, with accommodation for 142 prisoners including 16 female prisoners. The daily average of prisoners in the year 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904 was 60, 43, 46 and 52, respectively. The recognized industries of the Jail were aloe pounding and stone breaking.

Reformatory School

There is, however, a Government Reformatory School at Seoni which was established in the year 1946-47 for juvenile offenders. It is under the administrative control of the Education Department. The head of the school is the Superintendent who is assisted by one Deputy Superintendent and other staff. Besides, there is a large staff of teachers and instructors to impart education and vocational training, respectively to the inmates.

1. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, P139.

Vocational Training

In order to facilitate the rehabilitation of the inmates on their release, arrangements have been made in the School to provide vocational training. According to their physical fitness and aptitude the inmates learn trades like carpentry, toy-making, tailoring, tin work and gardening. There is also provision for teaching music.

Educational Facilities

The School has the facilities to provide education to the inmates upto 5th class. The yearwise number of convicts who availed of these facilities from 1950 to 1972 is shown in the table given in the Appendix.

The details regarding yearwise number of inmates received and discharged and length of sentences are shown in the tables given in Appendix.

NATURE OF CASES HANDLED BY COURTS

The criminal cases include the offences under Indian Penal Code, special and local laws and Indian Procedure Code. From 1966 to 1972 the highest number of offences was in 1967 when 10,678 cases were handled by the courts. This was followed by 10,119 cases in 1968 and 8,082 in 1966. The lowest number of such cases was 5,963 in 1971. In the years 1969, 1970 and 1972, the number of cases was 6,653; 6,861 and 7,575, respectively.

The following table shows the number of cases disposed of by magistrates.

Table No. XII-9
Disposal of cases by Magistrates

Years	No. of Cases		No. of Persons	
	Disposed	Pending	Disposed	Pending
1966	6,792	4,364	13,681	8,539
1967	10,086	4,989	14,838	8,223
1968	9,333	5,775	15,059	9,702
1969	8,414	3,962	12,381	6,972
1970	6,934	3,692	9,159	4,918
1971	5,657	3,998	8,279	5,648
1972	6,999	4,574	9,093	6,640

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

The number of persons convicted under various offences is given below :—

Table No. XII-10
Number of Persons Convicted

Year	Number of Offences affecting		
	Human Body	Property	Public Health
1966	215	935	19
1967	170	777	85
1968	235	838	66
1969	111	734	22
1970	247	678	28
1971	134	713	16
1972	187	903	44

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

The following table shows the number of persons punished from 1966 to 1972.

Table No. XII-11
Number of Persons Punished

Year	Imprisonment	Fines	Security Taken	Dealt with under Borstal Act
1966	1,227	3,952	11	2
1967	1,234	7,942	..	7
1968	1,224	7,414	56	..
1969	1,657	5,194	334	4
1970	1,553	4,323	98	6
1971	1,002	4,214	38	1
1972	1,192	4,830	55	1

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

The number of witness examined is shown below.—

Table No. XII-12
Witness Examined

Year	Number of Witnesses discharged on			
	1st day of trial	2nd day of trial	3rd day of trial	4th day of trial
1966	10,046	2,183	140	39
1967	8,452	3,177	1,303	296
1968	8,811	1,799	743	57
1969	10,147	716	210	132
1970	8,538	613	112	50
1971	7,968	685	178	84
1972	6,073	841	325	236

Source District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

The amount of fines imposed and realised is shown below :—

Table No. XII-13
Fines

Year	Amount of Fines (in Rs.)	
	Imposed	Realized
1966	1,99,393	1,68,882
1967	2,23,057	1,93,812
1968	2,04,118	1,72,237
1969	1,67,764	1,44,716
1970	1,31,369	1,19,210
1971	1,61,221	1,41,102
1972	1,58,434	1,47,669

Source : District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

Civil Suits

The civil suits include the suits for money and moveable property, title and other suits. The total number of suits for money and moveable property was highest in 1967, that is 1,099 and lowest (302) in 1969. The total number of

title and other suits varied between 456 in 1968 and 302 in 1971. The following table shows the year wise figures of such suits from 1966 to 1972.

Table No. XII-14

Civil Suits

Year	Suits for Money and Moveable Property	Title and other suits
1966	1,006	384
1967	1,099	343
1968	871	456
1969	392	356
1970	491	336
1971	482	302
1972	452	317

Sources : District and Sessions Judge, Seoni

The number of suits disposed by various courts of the District is given below :

Table No. XII-15
Number of Suits Disposed

Year	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
By District Courts	97	70	64	24	29	31	24
By Subordinate Civil Courts	881	760	7,845	566	490	622	145
By Court of Small Causes	882	823	688	393	506	372	62
Total	1,860	1,653	8,577	983	1,025	1,025	230

Source : District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

The following table shows the number of pending and instituted civil suits and their disposal during the period 1966 to 1972.

Table No. XII-16
Pending Suits and their Disposal

Year	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Pending at the beginning of the year	1,178	952	977	728	982	948	950
Instituted	1,390	1,442	1,327	948	827	797	772
Revived	115	83	97	43	55	66	70
Otherwise received ..	69	153	235	246	109	164	352
Total for disposal ..	2,752	2,630	2,636	1,965	1,973	1,975	2,144
Disposed by transfer	58	137	215	196	98	162	319
Otherwise disposed ..	1,742	1,516	1,362	787	927	863	835
Pending at the end of the year	952	977	1,059	982	948	950	990

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

The table given in appendices will show the statistics of revision and appellate cases along with regular and miscellaneous civil appeals from 1966 to 1972.

NYAYA PANCHAYATS

The Nyaya Panchayats are to provide the villagers with cheaper justice expeditiously and to associate the people with the administration of Justice. Nyaya Panchayats were first constituted under the Central Provinces and Berar Village Sanitation and Public Management Act, 1920. Later on they were replaced by the Panchayats established under the Central Provinces and Berar Panchayats Act, 1948. This Act was later replaced by the Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962.

According to the Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962 the Nyaya Panchayats are empowered to entertain civil cases not exceeding Rs.100 in value. As regards their criminal powers they can impose fines only upto Rs. 100. The judgements, decrees and orders of the Nyaya Panchayats are final, though the Sessions Judge in criminal cases and the District Judge in civil cases have been empowered to call for and examine records of such cases and pass such orders as they deem fit. In the year 1973 the number of Nyaya Panchayats in Seoni District was 43. Of these 24, were in Seoni tahsil and 19 in Lakhnadon tahsil. Their tahsil wise location has been shown in the Appendix. The yearwise number of civil and criminal cases decided by the Nyaya Panchayats from 1960 to 1971 is given in the following table :—

Table No. XII-17
Cases Decided by Nyaya Panchayats

Year	Number of Cases	
	Civil	Criminal
1960 ..	934	484
1965 ..	803	388
1966 ..	286	216
1967 ..	289	185
1968 ..	262	179
1969 ..	159	130
1970 ..	197	130
1971 ..	156	104

Source.—District Panchayats and Welfare Officer, Seoni.

LEGAL PROFESSION AND BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Till the formation of Central Provinces in 1861, the legal practice was carried on by unlicensed and even uneducated persons. As most of the persons acting as pleaders were found deficient in professional qualifications, an examination was prescribed for them. Any person desirous of practising law in the courts was compulsorily required to pass the prescribed examination. The Pleaders Act of 1865 was extended to the Central Provinces in 1879. In the same year the Legal Practitioners Act was also passed. Examinations now began to be held under this new Act. A form of oath was also prescribed for the pleaders and advocates.

Bar Association

At present there are two Bar Associations in the District, one each at the two tahsil headquarters. The Lakhnadon Bar Association was established in 1965. At that time it had only one member. By 1972 the number increased to four. Any advocate who is a permanent resident of Lakhnadon can be its member. The number of members of Seoni Bar Association is 98.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The organisational set-up of certain other offices located in the District which are under the control of their own Heads of Departments, is discussed here.

Agriculture

To organise the work under Machine Tractor Station Scheme and Boring-Blasting work, an office of the Assistant Agricultural Engineer is functioning from 1st April 1973 with headquarters at Seoni. The office has jurisdiction over the Engineering units of Seoni, Chhindwara, Narsimhapur and Balaghat districts. The Assistant Agricultural Engineer works under the administrative control of the Agricultural Engineer, Jabalpur.

In his work the Assistant Agricultural Engineer is assisted by 4 Mechanical Assistants, 2 Agricultural Assistants, 6 mechanics, 12 Air-Compressor Operators, 12 Driller Blasters, 27 Tractor Drivers and usual staff.

Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies

The office of the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, started at Seoni from 16th July 1973. The Deputy Registrar has jurisdiction over the districts of Seoni, Mandla and Balaghat. The Deputy Registrar has also to see the work relating to Handloom and Weavers' Societies of the districts of Seoni, Chhindwara, Narsimhapur, Jabalpur, Mandla and Balaghat. This work is under Pilot Scheme of Handlooms. The Deputy Registrar works under the administrative control of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Madhya Pradesh Bhopal. The Deputy Registrar in his work at the headquarters (Seoni) is assisted by 1 Assistant Registrar, 1 Area Officer, 4 Senior Co-operative Inspectors, 8 Co-operative Extension Officers, 2 Circle Auditors, 13 Sub-Auditors, 1 Government Manager and usual ministerial staff.

Apex Marketing

An office of the District Marketing Officer, Madhya Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing, Seoni, is functioning at Seoni from 1965. The office has jurisdiction over the whole Seoni District and functions under the administrative control of the Madhya Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited, Bhopal.

In his work the Marketing Officer is assisted by 1 Inspector, 1 Mechanic and usual staff.

Education

The office of the District Educational Officer, Seoni District is functioning from 1st November 1956. The office has jurisdiction over the tahsils of Seoni and Lakhnadon. It functions under the administrative control of the Divisional

Superintendent of Education, Narmada Division, Hoshangabad. The District Educational Officer, in his work, is assisted by 18 Assistant District Inspectors of Schools and usual staff.

Employment Officer

A District Employment Exchange is functioning at Seoni from the 15th February 1963 under a District Employment Officer. The Exchange has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni District. It functions under the administrative control of the Director, Employment and Training, Madhya Pradesh, whose headquarters is at Jabalpur.

The Employment Officer is assisted by a Junior Employment Officer, 1 Statistical Assistant and usual clerical staff.

Forest Department**Divisional Forest Officer, Central Seoni Division**

The Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Central Seoni Division, started functioning from 1st June 1974. This division has been formed with the bifurcation of some of the Ranges from North and South divisions. It functions under the immediate control of Conservator of Forests, Balaghat Circle, Balaghat.

The Divisional Forest Officer in his work is assisted by 3 Assistant Conservator of Forests, 5 Range Officers, 2 Surveyors, 146 Forest Guards, 28 Coupe Guards, 70 Foresters and usual ministerial staff.

Divisional Forest Officer, Lumber Division, Seoni

One more Forest Division (Fourth) headed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Lumber, started functioning at Seoni from 1st June 1974. The Forest Officer is in overall charge of all the Forest Depots in Seoni District and conducts auctions for sale of Timber and other forest products. He works under the administrative control of Conservator of Forests, Balaghat Circle, Balaghat.

The Forest Officer in his work (as on 1-6-1974) is assisted by 2 Assistant Conservator of Forests, 4 Range Officers, 59 Forest Guards, 1 Barrier Guard and 12 Foresters and usual ministerial staff.

Divisional Forest Officer, South Seoni Division

The Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, South Seoni Division is working from the 1st December 1962. The Office has jurisdiction over Seoni tahsil of Seoni District. It functions under the immediate control of the Conservator of Forests, Balaghat Circle, Balaghat and under the overall control of the Conservator in Chief of Forests, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Divisional Forest Officer in his work is assisted by 3 Assistant Conservator of Forests, 5 Range Officers, 5 Deputy Rangers, 82 Foresters and 98 Forest Guards, as in June 1974.

Divisional Forest Officer, North Seoni Division

Yet another Forest Division headed by the Divisional Forest Officer, North Seoni Division, is functioning from the 1st December 1962 with headquarters at Seoni. The Forest Officer has jurisdiction over northern part of Lakhnadon tahsil. He works under the administrative control of the Conservator of Forests, Balaghat Circle, Balaghat.

The Forest Officer (in 1974) is assisted by 3 Assistant Conservator of Forests, 5 Forest Rangers, 2 Surveyors, 139 Forest Guards, 24 Coupe Guards, 29 Barrier Guards and 52 Foresters and usual ministerial staff.

Fisheries

The Office of the Assistant Director, Fisheries was established in the District in 1958-59 at Seoni. The Assistant Director has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni and Chhindwara districts. He works under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Fisheries, Rewa Division, Rewa.

The Assistant Director is assisted by 2 Assistant Fishery Officers, 5 Fisheries Inspectors, 1 Fisheries Extension Assistant and usual staff.

Industries

A Divisional Industries Office (Rural Industries Project), Seoni is functioning since June, 1973 at Seoni under a Deputy Director of Industries (Project Officer). The Office has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni District. It works under the administrative control of the Director of Industries, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Deputy Director is assisted by an Assistant Director of Industries, 1 Development Officer, 4 Assistant Development Officers, 4 Farm Managers, 1 Junior Sericulture Inspector, 1 Demonstrator, 1 Fieldman, 1 Industries Inspector, 2 Block level Extension Officers and usual staff.

Irrigation**Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division**

To look after the irrigational work in the district, an office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division is functioning at Seoni with jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. The Executive Engineer works under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Wainganga Circle, Balaghat.

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, is assisted by 2 Assistant Engineers, 14 Overseers, 1 Draftsman, 2 Assistant Draftsmen, 2 Tracers and 12 Amins, besides a Divisional Accountant and usual ministerial staff.

Executive Engineer,**Upper Wainganga Canal Investigation Division**

For preconstructional work of Upper Wainganga Project an office of the Executive Engineer, Upper Wainganga, Canal Investigation Division was started at Keolari from the 23rd February 1972. The Executive Engineer has jurisdiction

over the districts of Balaghat and Seoni. He works under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Upper Wainganga Circle, Seoni.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 Assistant Engineers (who are Sub-Divisional Officers), 5 Junior Engineers, 32 Overseers, 1 Draftsman, 6 Assistant Draftsmen, 2 Tracers and usual ministerial staff.

Dam Investigation Division

Yet another office of the Executive Engineer, Upper Wainganga Dam Investigation Division, Seoni, is functioning since 1972. The Executive Engineer has jurisdiction over Seoni District. He looks after the work of survey and investigations of the Mani Dam near Bhingarh and that of Tilwara Weir as in 1974. He works under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Upper Wainganga Circle, Seoni.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 Assistant Engineers, 5 Junior Engineers, 32 Overseers, 1 Draftsman, 6 Assistant Draftsmen, 2 Tracers and usual staff.

Publicity

An Assistant Public Relations Officer is posted at Seoni since 1964. He works under the immediate control of the Collector, Seoni and under the administrative control of the Director of Information and Publicity, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Assistant Public Relations Officer publicises the activities of all the Government Offices located in the District.

Sales Tax

A Sales Tax Office, headed by an Assistant Sales Tax Officer is functioning at Seoni since 1961. The office has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. The Assistant Sales Tax Officer works under the immediate control of the Sales Tax Officer, Narsimhapur.

The Assistant Sales Tax Officer is assisted by 5 Sales Tax Inspectors and usual clerical staff.

Veterinary

To look after the animal husbandry activities in the district an office of the District Live Stock Officer is functioning at Seoni since January 1972. It has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni District. The Live Stock Officer works under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services, Jabalpur.

In his work the Live Stock Officer is assisted by 6 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, 8 Veterinary Extension Officers, 2 Stock Supervisors, 37 Veterinary Field Assistants, 4 Bull Attendants and 19 Attendants with usual staff.

Milk Supply Scheme

A Government Milk Supply Scheme, under an Officer on Special Duty designated as Manager, Milk Supply Scheme is being implemented from 15t August 1971. The Officer has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. He works under the immediate control of the General Manager, Milk Supply Scheme, Jabalpur and under the overall control of the Milk Commissioner, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Manager is assisted by 1 Assistant Milk Distribution Officer, 1 Assistant Dairy Chemist, 1 Assistant Milk Production Organiser, 2 Sales Supervisors, 1 Collection Supervisor, 1 Dairy Mechanic, and 1 Plant Operator, with usual staff.

Weights and Measures

Two Offices of the Inspectors of Weights and Measures are functioning with headquarters at Seoni. One of the Inspectors has jurisdiction over Seoni tahsil and the other Lakhnadon. They work under the immediate control of the Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures, Jabalpur.

Public Health

The Civil Surgeon is working at Seoni from the 1st of November 1956. The Civil Surgeon has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. He works under the administrative control of the Joint Director of Health Services, Jabalpur Region, Jabalpur.

The Civil Surgeon is assisted by 8 Assistant Surgeons including 2 Women Assistant Surgeons, 1 Dental Surgeon 5 Compounders, 7 Staff Nurses and usual staff.

Besides, there were 21 Government Ayurvedic Dispensaries working under the Civil Surgeon's control as in 1974, besides a Janapada Homeopathic Dispensary. Each Ayurvedic Dispensary is provided with a Vaidya, a Compounder a Dai and other usual staff. The Homoeopathic Dispensary was put under the charge of an Assistant Medical Officer.

Family Planning

An Office of the District Family Planning-cum- Health Officer is working at Seoni since 1968. The office has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. It works under the administrative control of the Joint Director of Health Services, Jabalpur.

The District Family Planning-cum-Health Officer is assisted by 17 Assistant Surgeons, 6 Assistant Medical Officers, 1 Mass Education Information Officer, 1 District Extension Educator, 22 Vaccinators and usual staff. There were 8 Primary Health Centres and 11 Civil Dispensaries under his supervision in 1974.

Public Works Department

The Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (B & R), Seoni was started at Seoni in 1969. The Executive Engineer has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. He works under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. Balaghat Circle, Balaghat.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 Assistant Engineers, 1 Junior Engineer, 18 Overseers, 6 Sub-Overseers, a Divisional Accountant, 1 Draftsman, 5 Assistant Draftsmen, 5 Tracers and usual ministerial staff. The three Assistant Engineers are Sub-Divisional Officers of Seoni Sub-Division No. 1, Seoni Sub-Division No. II and Lakhnadon Sub-Division respectively.

Public Health Engineering

A Rural Survey Division was set up under the control of an Executive Engineer with headquarters at Seoni. An Assistant Engineer was looking after the work of rural and urban water supply under the direct control of the Executive Engineer, P.H.E. Division, Chhindwara.

From 1st June 1975 the Executive Engineer, Rural Survey Division is posted at Seoni to look after the work of rural and urban water supply as well.

The Executive Engineer is being assisted by 4 Assistant Engineers, a number of overseers and usual technical and clerical staff.

Roadways

An Office of the Depot Manager, Madhya Pradesh State Roadways Transport Corporation is working at Seoni since 1969. The Depot Manager has jurisdiction over the districts of Seoni and Balaghat.

The Depot Manager is assisted by 2 Traffic Supervisors I Grade, 4 Traffic Supervisors II Grade, 9 Traffic Assistants, 11 Booking Agents, 61 Drivers, 58 Conductors, 67 Maintenance and Store Staff, besides the usual ministerial staff.

Social Welfare

The office of the District Panchayat and Welfare Officer is working at Seoni since 1956. It has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. The Officer works under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Panchayats and Welfare, Jabalpur Division, Jabalpur.

The District Panchayat and Welfare Officer is assisted by 1 District Auditor 8 Panchayat Social Welfare Organisers, 3 Lady Social Organisers, 5 Sub-Auditors and usual ministerial staff.

Tribal Welfare

The office of the District Organiser, Tribal and Harijan Welfare, is working at Seoni since 1961-62. It has jurisdiction over the whole of Seoni district. The District Organiser works under the administrative control of the Deputy Director, Tribal Welfare, Jabalpur and under the overall control of the Director of Tribal Welfare, Bhopal.

The District Organiser is assisted by 1 Development Assistant (Block Kurai), 3 Circle Organisers, 2 Sub-Overseers and usual staff.

Tube Wells Department

Assistant Engineer, Tube Wells, Seoni

An Assistant Engineer Tube Wells is posted at Seoni since 1973. He has jurisdiction over Seoni and Mandla districts. He is directly under the control of Executive Engineer, Tube Wells, Jabalpur. He is assisted by a number of overseers and other technical staff.

District Statistical Officer-cum-Registrar of Births and Deaths

A District Statistical Office-cum-Office of the Registrar, Births and Deaths, headed by a District Statistical Officer, has recently been setup from 1st August 1973 at Seoni with jurisdiction over the whole of the District.

The District Statistical Officer also performs the functions of District Registrar, Births and Deaths under Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. This Act has come into force in Madhya Pradesh from 1-4-1970.

The District Statistical Officer-cum-District Registrar of Births and Deaths is directly under the control of the Director of Economics and Statistics who is also the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The District Statistical Officer is assisted by 2 Statistical Assistants, 1 Investigator and usual clerical staff.

CHAPTER XIV LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The system of local administration in ancient times had reached the climax of self-government in those days. Each village had its own council in which probably the village elders discussed and deliberated over questions of public importance. The local disputes were settled by this council of the village elders. The decision of the council carried with it, as much sanctity and sanction, as is attached in modern times, to the awards of the Courts of Justice.

The previously established system of village government continued to function throughout the Muslim period. The Muslim rulers gave the village community a sort of legal standing by their tacit recognition of it, and encouraged it to co-operate with the government in its function.

The foundation of the Peshwa's administrative system was the self-contained and self-supporting village community. In the Maratha revenue system, under which the village community was jointly responsible for the revenue and all details of assessment were left to the villagers themselves. The people were forced to act together under their headman, and to arrange their own affairs.

During the British Administration of "Saugor and Nerbudda Territories" in the 'twenties and 'thirties, of the 19th century, the village communities actively worked in those parts. A detailed account of their working, particularly in the judicial field, is given in these documents. Sir Richard Temple admits the existence of such bodies in the northern parts of the Central Provinces¹. Similar views were expressed by Mr. Crosthwaite in his speech introducing the Central Provinces Local Self Government Bill, 1818 before the Governor-General's Council on the 12th January, 1883. "Under the ancient system of the country, each village managed its own affairs and although there is little trace in the Central Provinces of these complicated Village Communities which still thrive in northern India, yet the system of village management was, until a comparatively recent date, complete. Every village had its headman or 'Patel' who acted as the guide, agent and leader of the village".

It seems, however, that the local institutions in these territories of Madhya Pradesh slowly decayed after the assumption of power by the British in 1818 and still more so after the final annexation by them of the Nagpur Kingdom in 1853.

In the course of time, however, the Government realised the centralisation had made their administrative and financial burdens intolerable. This discovery led to the initiation of the policy, however, could not mean a return to the old system of the panchayats and arbitrary local areas were demarcated and bodies were created. The existing system of Municipal administration is, thus

1. Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces, 1862, Para 175.

of comparatively recent introduction, while the local institutions in rural areas are of still later origin and also of slower growth.

The reasons that led to the establishment of local self-Government during the British rule were three fold, viz., financial, administrative and political. Local Self-Government as a conscious process of administrative devolution and political education really began with Lord Mayo's Resolution of 1870, which dealt with financial decentralisation. He advised the provincial Governments to enlist popular assistance in the work of social advancement. This resulted in the enactment of a series of legislation on local self-Government in the various provinces. The town of Seoni was provided with a municipality in 1867, under the Punjab Municipal Act of 1862. Accordingly the first Municipal Act of the Central Provinces was passed in 1873 (II of 1873), and remained in force till 1883 when the C.P. Local Self-Government Act I of that year was introduced. The Municipal area was divided into 5 wards and the Total number of members to be elected was fixed as 10. In addition, there were since nominated members also. All tax payers within the Municipal limits were given the right to vote in Municipal elections to be held every three years. In places where indirect taxation existed all male house holders earning their bread by labour were declared as electorate. Efforts were made that all classes of people residing in the Municipality area should adequately be represented in the Municipal Committee. This was the first important land mark in the development of local administration of Seoni District.

In the early years of Municipal administration, octroi was the principal source of revenue and it was devoted, first to provide for police, and then for construction, maintenance, repairs and conservancy of public streets, roads, drains, tanks and water courses.¹ The year 1871, therefore, saw a wide development legislation for local administrative purposes. The average income of the Seoni Municipality for the decade ending 31st March 1906 was Rs.34,000.

In 1882, Lord Ripon's Resolution marked a decisive advance in the policy of decentralisation through the agency of local government. It provided the extension of local-self-Government, primarily as an instrument of popular and political education and aimed at inducing people themselves to undertake management of their own affairs. Following this Resolution, the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act I of 1883 and C.P. Municipal Act, 1882 (XVIII of 1882) were passed, providing wider extension of municipal administration. By the Central Provinces Local-Self-Government Act I of 1883, the control of certain branches of administration was transferred to local administration bodies. The Chief Commissioner was empowered to make rules for the guidance of these bodies. These were divided into two groups, viz., urban and rural local administrative bodies.

Although a beginning was made towards the urban local self administration in the District by the establishment of Seoni Municipality, yet the rural areas engaged the attention first in 1882. Prior to this, there existed a number of committees in the District maintained by local funds which were administered by the local committee. In pursuance of Lord Ripon's Resolution, regarding rural boards, the policy suggested was that of concentrating all the local administration, other than that embraced by Municipalities, in the hands of one-committee for each district having ancillary subordinate sub-committees for each tahsil or sub-division. Accordingly under this act, Local Boards for Seoni and Lakhnadon tahsils and the District Council for Seoni district were constituted in 1890. The Local Boards were working as agents of the District Council.

Unfortunately, the liberal principles enunciated in the celebrated Resolution of Ripon could not be translated into action completely. The system of election was introduced but without a board franchise. Provisions for election of nonofficial Chairman were still retained. Financial independence was not conceded to the local bodies. Under these circumstances local Self-Government failed to make satisfactory progress, Lord Elgin's Government, therefore, laid down further conditions of progress in Local Self-Government in its resolutions of 1896 and 1897. This led to the passage of the Municipalities Act, 1903 which was more specific in regard to the Municipal Committees.

Under the Act XVI of 1903, Seoni Municipality was reconstituted. The Committee was composed of two nominated and twelve elected members.

District Council and Local Boards

The management of local affairs outside Municipal areas was entrusted to a District Council with 5 nominated and 11 elected members. The Seoni District Council and the Seoni and Lakhnadon Local Boards came into existence on the 1st January, 1890. Prior to this there was only one Local Board for the whole district dating from April 25th, 1884. The income of the District Council at Seoni rose from Rs.25,000 in 1896-97 to Rs.49,000 in 1905-1906. Under the District Council the two local Boards at Seoni and Lakhnadon had jurisdiction over the respective tahsils of the same name. The Seoni Local Board had a total membership of 18 members, out of whom 12 were elected and 6 nominated while Lakhnadon Local Board had a total membership of 18 out of whom 14 were elected and 4 nominated.

Village Sanitation Act

The provisions of Village Sanitation Act were introduced into District Council from the year 1901-02. A sum of about Rs.1,500 was raised annually from latrine and conservancy taxes and market dues and was expended mainly on a conservancy establishment. The Mukaddam Rules were in force in the various villages of the District Council.

1. C. P. Administration Report, 1877-78, p.XXIX.

Official Control

The local bodies were not free from the official control. The Boards and Municipal Committees were saddled with responsibilities, but no adequate funds were placed at their disposal. The members had no initiative in formulating policies and there was reluctance on the part of District Officers to entrust them with any real power. The Municipal elections did not attract men of repute. There was a lack of enthusiasm in the people. The result was that a genuine system of the local self-Government did not develop satisfactorily.

Royal Commission 1915 and 1918

The Royal Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Charles Hobhouse, made a series of recommendations which formed the Resolution of 1915. The Resolution supported the extension of the principle of elected majority in the local institutions, non-official chairman, increase in the powers of the Municipalities and Boards, as well as establishment of village *Panchayats* with certain judicial and administrative powers. In 1918, the Mortague-Chelmsford Resolution on Local Self-Government recommended elected bodies, non-official elected Chairman, wider powers and complete popular control on the local bodies and the largest possible independence from outside control. It also recommended the establishment of village *Panchayats* with limited powers.

A new Legislation called the Central Provinces and Berar Local Self-Government Act, 1920, was enacted which embodied the recommendation of Royal Commission of 1915 and that of 1918. Under the new act the District was divided into groups and circles. For each group of circles a Local Board and for each district a District council was recommended. Hence Seoni District Council along with Local Boards at Seoni and Lakhnadon were reconstituted.

Municipalities Act 1922

After passing of the Act of 1919, a local self-government was established in the provincial governments. In common with the rest of the country the principles set for them were embodied in the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act II of 1922, which came into force in July 1923. This act aimed at lowering the franchise, at increasing the elected element in local bodies to the extent of making it the unquestioned immediate arbiter of policy in local affairs and passing executive directions into non-official hands. Local self-Government became a transferred subject under the charge of a Minister. But unfortunately the paucity of funds always stood in the way. However, efforts were made to lessen official control in order to make the local bodies truly representative of the people. Accordingly, the Seoni Municipality was reconstituted under the Act II of 1922 and the number of elected members increased to 13 with 3 nominated and 2 selected members.

Democratisation

In 1927, the C.P. and Berar Municipalities (First Amendment) Act was passed which prescribed that the number of nominated members should not exceed that of selected members. During the era of Provincial Autonomy, the

year 1939 witnessed the enactment and the enforcement of a few legislations effecting important changes in the system of Local Self-Government of the urban area. The C.P. and Berar Municipalities (Second Amendment) Act 1939 provided election of the president by adult franchise and the procedure for his removal and for the appointment and removal of Vice-Presidents. The third Amendment Act, 1939, introduced adult franchise while the fourth Amendment Act, 1939 abolished the system of nomination. Thus, by lowering the franchise qualification further democratisation of urban local self-government was achieved. Nominations, which had continued during the period of diarchy were considered undemocratic, and therefore, abolished. In their place a system of compulsory election was substituted to enable the minorities and backward classes to secure representation on Municipal Committees.

Janapad Sabhas

After the attainment of Independence in 1947 important legislation, reorganising local self-government was passed in the State. Accordingly, Seoni Municipal Committee was re-constituted in 1948. Regarding Rural Local Self-Government, a new act was passed in 1948, according to which District Council and Local Boards were abolished and instead, Janapad Sabhas were established at Tahsil level in the two Tahsils of the District.

A comprehensive amending Act, the C.P. and Berar Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 1947 was passed. It was enacted to implement some of the recommendations of the Local Self-Government Enquiry Committee, 1935. Under the Act the President was provided with the power to perform the duties and exercise all the executive powers conferred on him for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the above Act. This system was, however, again reformed in 1958, and since then the president and two vice-presidents have to be elected by Municipal Councillors. In order to bring the uniformity in the pattern of urban local self-government institutions throughout the State, the Urban Local Self-Government Committee was appointed in 1957 to examine the whole question. In pursuance of its recommendation the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Act, 1961 was enacted.

Under the new Act, the system of indirect election of the President either from amongst the elected or selected members or from outside by the councillors has been retained. Under this Act every municipality is required to form a Standing Committee of nine members. Formation of four Executive Committees, each of not more than five members is obligatory. These committees are on Finance, Education, Public Works and Water Works and Public Health. If needed, one construction committee can also be formed in addition to four obligatory Executive Committees. According to the Act each Municipal Council shall consist of (a) elected councillors, (b) selected councillors not exceeding one-fourth of the total elected councillors, of whom at least one each shall be a woman, a Muslim and a member of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Rural Local-Self Government Committee was appointed by the State Government for formulating set-up of rural institutions. The Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act of 1962 seeks to establish a three tier system of Panchayats, the Gram Panchayat at the village level, the Janapada Panchayat at the Block level and the Zila Panchayat at the District level.

MUNICIPALITIES

At present there is only one Municipality in the district located at Seoni. already stated earlier, the Municipality was created at Seoni in 1867. Its strength consisted of sixteen members.

In addition to grants and contribution from provincial revenues, the other principal items of income were education, market dues, conservancy and cattle pounds.

The Seoni Municipal Committee was reconstituted in 1925-26 under the Central Provinces and Berar Municipality Act of 1922 and was composed of elected, selected and nominated members. Out of 18 members of Municipality 17 members were non-officials. The number of the selected members was not to exceed one-fifth of the total and the selection was made by the elected and nominated members from amongst the residents of the Municipality. Prior to 1927 selection was confined to eldersmen, i.e., members of expiring committee, and the express object of the selection was to ensure a degree of experienced municipal administration in each succeeding committee. In 1927, an amendment to the Act was successfully moved by a non-official member of the Local Legislative Council, so that the original object of selection had been stultified. By this amendment, selection was thrown open to all persons qualified for membership.

The Government of India Act, 1935, and the introduction of Provincial Autonomy in 1937 gave a further fillip to the development of Local Self-Government on popular basis. The advent of Independence in 1947, brought the subject of Local Self-Government in the lime light. The Municipal Acts were streamlined embodying in them fundamental changes in all the important subjects.

The population and area of the Seoni Municipal Town were 30,274 and 8.47 sq.km. in 1961, while in 1971 the population figure was 38,396 persons in the same area. The Municipal Council was composed of elected and selected members, two Vice-Presidents and one President.

Among all the problems of Municipal Administration, there is none more important, or more difficult, than that of getting the large sums of money which are needed year by year to carry on the various activities. It is the process of collecting the money from the local sources to meet the necessary expenditure of the services rendered for the welfare of the people residing in the Municipal area. From the beginning of the present century, financial resources of the Municipalities included octroi, taxes on houses and lands, taxes and rates

and fees from markets, cattle-pounds and slaughter houses, etc., The following table shows income and expenditure of Seoni Municipality since 1950-51:—

Table No. XIV-1
Income and Expenditure of Seoni Municipality

(Rs.)			
Year	Income	Expenditure	
1950-51	2,65,061	2,64,260	
1960-61	4,40,548	4,18,132	
1968-69	12,41,400	13,12,000	
1970-71	13,32,141	11,96,928	
1971-72	10,89,384	10,70,365	
1972-73	11,76,249	10,64,981	
1973-74	15,91,446	18,20,570	
1974-75	12,62,211	12,43,856	

Education

In this sphere Seoni Municipality made a remarkable progress. The expenditure incurred on education in the year 1950-51 was Rs.66,268 which subsequently increased to Rs.91,065 in 1955-56 and to Rs.1,62,647 in 1960-61. The table in the Appendix shows the details of the expenditure for the last 10 years.

Safety and Street Lighting

The provision for street lighting is one of the primary responsibilities of the Municipalities. The Municipality had made lighting arrangement with the help of Kerosene oil lamps from the very beginning. Later on electrical lighting was introduced and consequently all the main streets of the town came to be lighted by electricity. The expenditure incurred under this head by Seoni Municipality for the few selected years is shown below :—

Table No. XIV-2
Expenditure on Street Lighting

(Rs.)							
1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
9,298	17,519	17,576	27,930	49,071	38,845	35,523	38,103

Public Health

The Municipality is responsible for making necessary provisions for the maintenance of Public Health establishment of dispensaries. The expenditure incurred by this Municipality was Rs.88,334 in 1950-51, Rs.86,316 in 1955-56 Rs.1,17,289 in 1960-61 and Rs.6,90,330 in 1974-75. The Municipality has appointed a Sanitary Inspector, who looks after the sanitation and public health of the town.

DISTRICT COUNCIL AND LOCAL BOARDS

As already stated earlier, an important landmark towards the introduction of local self-government in Seoni District was marked in 1890 when Seoni District Council and Seoni and Lakhnadon Local Boards were created under the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act, 1 of 1883. The Act, provided "for the aggregation of villages in circles and circles into groups". From these circles and groups were excluded such areas as were included in the limits of a military Cantonment or of a town having a Municipal Committee. For each group of circles a Local Board and for each district a District Council was established. Accordingly, Local Board at Seoni and Lakhnadon and a District Council at Seoni were constituted on 18th January 1890. In the Central Provinces, for rural boards two-thirds of members were elected. In those days, Local Board consisted of three kinds of members; (a) members representative of each of the circles comprised within their local area (b) members representative of mercantile classes or professions and (c) members appointed by the Chief Commissioner. A certain proportion of members were representative village headman or *Mukaddams*. The Tahsildar of the area was appointed as the ex-officio Chairman of the Local Board.

Election to Council

The members of the District Council were elected not by direct representation but by and from the Local Boards. Not more than one-third of the total number of members were nominated by the Deputy Commissioner. Though there was provision for the election of a non-official Chairman, in practice the Official Chairman, was still retained. The District Council and Local Board had an elected Secretary in whom were vested the executive powers. The members held office for a period of three years.

Functions of Council and Boards

The constitution of the Local Boards and District Council underwent a change within a few years. The management of rural schools, dispensaries, hospitals, cattle pounds and roads with ferries on them outside the Municipal areas, was entrusted to the District Council. The Local Boards had no independent income but they submitted estimates of expenditure on minor improvement to the District Council and performed inspection duty. Thus, Local Boards were working as the agents of the District Council. Later on in 1910, some of the duties were transferred from District Council to Local Boards, which till then were entrusted with the management of minor civil works, rural schools and cattle pounds under the supervision of the District Council. At the same time the management of the village market was also transferred to the District Council and Local Boards.

Many of these limitations were, however, subsequently removed. The Decentralization Commission recommended extension of the functions and powers of rural board. The Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1908, proposed to extend the authority of rural boards by giving them the power of

establishment of schools, dispensaries markets, etc. It also added 'Veterinary dispensaries' to the list of public institutions given in section 9 (a) of the Act. In the beginning the upkeep of all roads, other than the main provincial routes, was entrusted to the councils but as they showed their incapacity to upkeep the roads, the management of all except village tracks was transferred to the Public Works Department and the same was done with arboriculture.

Local Funds Scheme

With the introduction of the Local Funds Scheme, in order to relieve the pressure of work on the Public Works Department of the Government, it was decided to restore to the Councils the supervision of a number of roads and buildings till then maintained from Provincial Funds.

The functions of the District Council were performed partly by Chairman, partly by the Secretary in whose hands the executive authority largely lay, partly through the Committees like the School Committee, the Public Works Committee and the like; but the real Executive Officer of the District Council was the Chairman of the Local Board, namely the Tahsildar, who practically did all the work and spent all the money except such as was spent on establishments like hospitals and schools.

Executive Control

Moreover, the Executive Control over the functions of the District Council was vested entirely in the heads of various Government Departments at the district head quarters, for example, the Inspector of Schools, the Civil Surgeon, the Executive Engineer, etc. At the top of all stood the all powerful with Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildar, in his double role as the agent of the Deputy Commissioner and the Chairman of the Local Board, succeeded in concentrating most of the executive authority in his hands and made his position fell in every way.

Out of the nominated members of the District Council two were officials and the same number of official members was in case of each Local Board. A provision of elected official Chairman was made in the year 1915-16 for District Council and Local Boards of Seoni District.

The Central Provinces and Berar Local Self-Government Act of 1920 replaced Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act of 1883, which was consequently enacted and came into force in the District from the 1st May 1922. The Central Provinces in accordance with the recommendations of the Decentralisation Commission introduced a scheme for enlarging the scope of Local Boards. It provided for the lowering of the proportion of nominated to elected members, abandoned the principle of communal representation and subsequently granted the powers of taxation.

According to the Act No. IV of 1920, the District Council was composed of two-thirds of the total members elected not directly but by and from the

Local Boards, one-sixth of the persons selected from the general electorate by the members elected by the Local Boards and one-sixth, other than Government Officials, appointed by the Government by nomination. Local Boards consisted of elected and nominated members only. The latter were not to exceed one-fourth of the total membership. The District Council and Local Boards had also for the first time non-official Chairman during the period.

In the year 1935, the general elections were held and there was representation in them from the backward communities like Gonds in the District Local

Adult Franchise

In 1939, some changes were introduced in the constitution of the local bodies of the District as a result of the C.P. Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act of 1939. It abolished the system of nomination of members to local bodies and introduced the principle of adult franchise. A Local Board consisted, ordinarily of elected members, each circle constituting a group which elected one representative. It also provided to give representation to certain special classes and interests, e.g. a Muslim, a Harijan or a Woman as a member of the Board.

Indirect Election

The elections of the District Council were indirect; four-fifth of the prescribed number being elected by single transferable vote by the Local Boards from amongst their own members, and the remaining one-fifth selected by single transferable vote by the members, elected by the Local Boards from amongst persons resident in the District Council area and possessing the qualifications of a voter.

The inclusion of a Muslim, a Harijan or a woman was also provided for in the case of the District Council.

Powers and Duties

The District Council and Local Boards members were assigned the specific powers and duties. The Chairman had a dual capacity. He was the President of District Council as well as its administrative and executive head. He was assisted by Vice-Chairman, who exercised the powers of the Chairman only in the latter's absence. Similarly, the Chairman of the Local Board, was the administrative and Executive head of the Local Boards and was responsible for and incharge of the execution and Control of all the general administrative duties of the Board.

Financial Resources

The working of Local Self-Government in the Central Provinces under the Acts of 1883 and 1885 showed that the financial resources of the District Council and Local Boards were meagre scanty and inelastic. Under the Act of 1920 the Local Bodies began to impose and realise taxes. The *Grants-in-Aid* to Local Bodies Act, 1939, provided for the payment of a grant to local bodies approximately equal to the sums realised by them in the shape of certain fees

and fines which, under the Government of India Act, 1935, were required to be credited to the provincial revenues.

The above steps improved matters to some extent regarding the financial resources of the District Council but it was not all. Something more was needed as was pointed out by the Resolution of 1938-39, that no improvement in accounts was likely to be permanent unless the office bearers themselves exercised stricter supervision and closer control.

JANAPAD SABHA

After the attainment of Independence in 1947, a new Act was passed in 1948, according to which District Council and Local Boards were abolished and instead, a Janapad Sabha was established at tahsil level in two tahsils of the District.

The first nominated body of the Seoni Janapad Sabha assumed office on the 15th August 1948 and had jurisdiction over the entire tahsil area of Seoni with a total population of 3,00,734. It remained in office till March, 1954. The first ever and the last general election to the Sabha were held in December 1953 and the elected body took over in April 1954 and continued till the 25th October 1967 when the State Government assumed control of the Sabha. The administration thereafter was carried on by the Collector till the 1st June, 1971 when the same was handed over to the newly constituted Janapad Panchayats under the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Act, 1963.

The entire Janapad Sabha area was divided into 25 rural and 2 urban electoral divisions from which one member each was elected on the basis of adult franchise. In case the elected members did not include a woman, a member of Scheduled Castes and a Tribe, provision was made to co-opt a member each of all the three categories. The term of the members was five years which could be extended by Government from time-to-time. Both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman were selected by the Janapad Sabha. Elected members or even outsiders, qualified to be members, were eligible for election. The members were honorary and they were paid only travelling and daily allowances for attending the meeting. A Deputy Collector, who was generally the Sub-Divisional Officer of the Tahsil acted as Chief Executive Officer.

In pursuance of the Act of 1948 every Sabha constituted its own body, the Standing Committees of Finance, Public Works, Public Health, Education, Agriculture and Development.

The last mentioned Standing Committee was, however, abolished in accordance with the recommendations of the Janapad Enquiry Committee, 1952, and instead an Administrative Committee comprising of eleven or nearly equal to one-third of the total number of councillors, whichever was greater, was constituted in each Sabha. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Janapad Sabha were to be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Co-

mittee. The Administrative Committee deals with the co-ordination of the other Standing Committees and looks to the implementation of their decisions and appointment of Janapad staff.

Functions

The Janapad Sabha were vested with larger authority and wider power than that the old District Councils possessed. The functions of the Sabha can be divided into three categories; obligatory, discretionary, and entrusted. The compulsory duties comprised among others, establishment and management of rural schools (now transferred to Education Department), hospitals, dispensaries, rest-houses, (now transferred to P. W. D.) control of epidemics, vaccination, registration of births and deaths, management of cattle pounds and ferries, construction and maintenance of roads, provisions for drinking water by construction of wells and tanks and village uplift, etc.

Discretionary duties include mainly management of fairs, agricultural shows, industrial exhibitions, sanitation, development of cottage industries, etc. Besides, the Act empowers the Government to entrust the Sabha certain other functions. In respect of such transferred duties the Sabha has to work as an agent to Government and it has to carry out the laid down policy and instruction.

Financial Resources

The Janapad Sabha had more sources of the revenues than the former-District Council. The rate of compulsory cess has considerably enlarged. In pursuance of the Janapad Act 1948, the income of Janpad Sabha comes mainly from rates (cesses) taxes, and fees of various kinds and Government grants. All the sums received by the Sabha constitute the Janapad Fund which is vested in the Sabha and is placed to its credit. The following table gives the income and expenditure figures of Seoni Janapad Sabha for period 1951-52 to 1969-70.

Table No. XIV-23
Income and Expenditure

Year	Total Receipts (In Rs.)	Expenditure (In Rs.)
1951-52	3,52,774	3,61,465
1961-62	4,45,642	4,62,548
1966-67	4,61,423	5,11,259
1967-68	6,60,894	5,56,519
1968-69	5,54,556	4,74,117
1969-70	5,72,205	5,03,076

Expenditure of Janpad Sabha

The important functions of the Janapad Sabha related to services on Education, Public Health, Public Works and Veterinary Services and Water Supply.

Table No. XIV-4
Expenditure on Different Items

Year	Public Health	Public Works	Veterinary Education	Education
1951-52	2,19,11	83,439	5,412	1,81,706
1956-57	3,00,61	33,292	5,224	3,02,775
1961-62	4,45,665	1,12,468	8,964	4,04,316
1966-67	6,03,00	1,12,761	13,770	29,178
1967-68	74,300	54,480	4,122	1,22,051
1968-69	46,608	14,776	12,030	1,12,346
1969-70	68,023	41,988	11,471	4,44,550

N.B.—Expenditure on Education declined in 1966-67 as services of primary and middle school teachers were taken over by State Government in 1963-64.

Education

The establishment, management, maintenance, inspection and visiting of schools was an important function of the District Council and, consequently, of the Janapad Sabha. It was responsible primarily, to provide for primary and middle vernacular education. There has been remarkable progress in the sphere of education during the period of Sabha's existence. In 1951-52, Seoni Janapad Sabha was running 90 primary Schools and 8 middle Schools, which increased to 142 primary schools and 12 middle schools in the year 1956-57 and to 200 primary, 20 middle and 7 higher secondary schools in 1966-67.

Since 1951-52, the expenditure on education has rapidly risen owing to an over increasing demand of schools in rural areas, as shown in the following table.

Table No. XIV-5
Expenditure on Education

Year	Primary Schools	Middle Schools	High/Higher Secondary Schools	Total expenditure on education
				1,81,706.00
1951-52	90	8	..	3,02,775.00
1956-57	143	12	..	4,04,316.00
1961-62	178	16	..	29,178.00
1966-67	200	20	7	

(Note: Services of Primary and Middle Schools teachers were taken over by the State Government in 1963-64).

Public Health and Medical

The main activities under this head are management of Ayurvedic dispensaries, provision and purification of drinking water, measures for prevention of epidemics, digging of new wells vaccination and inoculation. The expenditure on Public Health recorded remarkable rise from the year 1951-52 as shown in the table above.

Water Supply

The table below shows the details of expenditure on water supply by the Sabha:

Table No. XIV-6
Education on Water Supply

Year	Income (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1951-52	N. A.	3,000
1956-57	N. A.	6,540
1961-62	N. A.	5,000
1966-67	N. A.	7,335

Public Works.

This was an important function of the District Council. The Janapad Sabha of the District plays an important role in the development of rural communication and construction of buildings for Panchayat Bhawans, schools and dispensaries, construction and repairs of wells and tanks. The expenditure incurred by the Sabhas on public works of the District is shown in the above table from the year 1951-52 to 1969-70.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

In the historical times prior to the interlude of the British regime and in a certain measure even during it, our village administration had been broad based on the principle of direct democracy and village people participated in the making of decisions on matters concerning local welfare. In 1908, the British Government initiated a policy that would make a village, the starting point of public life. In 1918, following the Mont-Ford Report, an effective and essential beginning was made with a view to call these 'Panchayats' into existence. Accordingly, the Central Provinces and Berar Local Self-Government Act of 1920 was passed. In March 1925, the Central Provinces Legislative Council, recommended to the Government to encourage the establishment of village Panchayats. The subject of village Panchayat was reviewed by a Committee appointed by the Government in 1926. As a result, two Gram Panchayats were established in Seoni District. The slow progress of these led to the appointment of an Enquiry Committee in 1935 in the Provinces. The Committee recommended that Panchayats should be endowed with Civil and Criminal powers that certain functions should be made obligatory for them, and a certain share of District Council's income should be made over to them.

After embodying its recommendations, the first Panchayat legislation in the Central Provinces (The Central Provinces and Berar Panchayat Act), was passed.

in 1946. This was subsequently amended in 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1953. Under the Act of 1953 the formation was split up into three stages. First they were established in villages with a population of 1000; second, for villages with a population between 500 and 1000 and in the third stage they were organised in the villages with less than 500 persons. The principle was that one Panchayat should be established for every village and Panchas were to be elected on the basis of adult suffrage. In the first instance Gram Panchayats were formed by nomination under the C.P. and Berar Panchayat Act, 1946. The Sarpancha were also nominated by the Government after which elections were held. During the year 1963-64, there were 546 Village Panchayats in the district.

In the year 1951-52 first elections were held in the Gram Panchayats of the district on the basis of adult franchise and by secret ballot. The number of panchas ranged from 5 to 10. The Patel of the village was appointed as *ex-officio* member of the village Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat elected its Sarpanch from amongst its own members from amongst the residents of the village. Village Assistant (Gram Sahayak) was the *ex-officio* Secretary of a Gram Panchayat or a group of Panchayats, depending upon the population of the Panchayats. The Janapad Sabha had the general powers of administration, supervision and control over the Gram Panchayats.

Under the Village Panchayat Act, 1920, the function of the Village Panchayats were limited to village sanitation and dealing with petty judicial case. But under the Act of 1946, Panchayats were entrusted with administrative development, welfare and municipal functions. These functions have been divided into two groups, obligatory and optional. The former include medical, registration of births, deaths and marriages, water supply sanitation, construction and maintenance of roads, etc. The optional functions of Panchayats were improvement in agriculture and livestock, promotion of education, encouragement of cottage industries, street-lighting and development of co-operative movement. All these functions are being carried out by the Panchayats of the district.

Financial Resources

The main sources of income of the Gram Panchayats in the district were a compulsory cess on land revenue at the rate of three paise per rupee, house tax, profession tax, and licence fee for practising as broker within the panchayat area. In addition, there are few other optional taxes, e.g. light-tax, animal tax toll on vehicles, water rate, conservancy tax, etc. which are levied in the district. Panchayats can also raise loans equal to 5 per cent of their revenue from non-collapsible village development fund. In the initial stage the development grants of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 were given for meeting the expenses connected with development activities. There is a gram panchayat fund and all money this received is credited to this account.

The major heads of expenditure of the Gram Panchayats are on construction and maintenance of the tanks, wells, roads, Panchayat Bhawans and market places, lighting, water supply, sanitation and miscellaneous heads. The total income and expenditure figures for all the Gram Panchayats of this district from the years 1959-60 to 1970-71 are given below.—

Table No. XIV-7
Income and Expenditure of Gram Panchayats

Year	Income	Expenditure
1959-60	1,40,691	98,225
1965-66	3,00,701	2,78,990
1966-67	2,12,940	1,69,040
1967-68	2,82,858	2,19,498
1968-69	3,99,688	4,17,854
1969-70	4,10,550	3,60,216
1970-71	5,53,564	4,97,534

NYAYA PANCHAYATS

With the advent of Independence, the judicial functions in the rural areas were entrusted to the Nyaya Panchayats to some extent. The establishment of these aimed at providing the village folks with cheaper, speedier and simpler mode of justice. Under the C. P. and Berar Panchayats Act, 1946 in all 57 Nyaya Panchayats were constituted in the district. Each Gram Panchayat was represented by a Panch in the Nyaya Panchayat concerned and Nyaya Panchayat both together have given a new pattern to rural life. The details of functions and working of Nyaya Panchayats have been discussed earlier in chapter on Law, Order and Justice.

Panchayati Raj

In 1962, the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Act was passed. This Act brought new vision and responsibilities to the Panchayats, what is popularly known as the *Panchayati Raj*. Under this Act a three tier system is to be set up, viz., Gram Panchayat at village level, Janapad Panchayat at the Block level and Zila Panchayat at the district level, specific powers and functions in the field of development and local administration have been assigned by the Panchayati Raj institutions. The Janapad Panchayats have been established in the district and steps are being taken for establishing the Zila Panchayat.

Under the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Act, 1962 (VII of 1962) the Gram Sabha, consisting of all the adults of the village, has been recognised as a statutory body, established for a village or a group of villages having a population of one thousand persons or more. The initiative and control will pass to the

Panchayats who will guide and shape the future of our village community. Under the new Act, in all 279 Gram Panchayats are formed in Seoni district. The total number of Panchas was 3659 (elected). In addition 541 women and 21 persons of Scheduled Castes and Tribes were co-opted for these Gram Panchayats. Out of these Panchayats 54 were in Seoni Block, 44 in Barghat Block, 41 in Keolari Block, 24 in Kurai Block, 38 in Lakhnadon Block, 32 in Ghansore Block, 21 in Dhanora Block and 25 in Chhapara Block.

Electrification has been affected so far by 42 Village Panchayats, while water supply by pipe has been made available by 4 Village Panchayats. Under the head Public Works the Panchayats had constructed 107 wells, 17 tanks, roads totalling 4 km., 50 school buildings and 37 Panchayat Bhawans.

Janapad Panchayats

First General elections to the Janapad Panchayat under the new Act were completed in December, 1970. On the day of establishment of the Janapad Panchayat the Janapad Sabhas stood dissolved and the old Local Government Act, 1948 stood repealed. In all 8 Janapada Panchayats were formed in place of the two Janapad Sabhas and all the assets and liabilities of the outgoing local body were distributed between these newly constituted Janapad Panchayats.

The jurisdiction of the Janapad Panchayats extends to the entire area of the Block having that name. The area was divided into 149 electoral wards from each of which one member was elected on the basis of adult franchise. The member of the Vidhan Sabha, representing the area, is also an *ex-officio* member of the Panchayat. In case the elected members do not include a woman or include less than two women, provision has been made to co-opt such member of women. Similarly, provision also exists in the Act to the effect that in case the elected members do not include a member of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled tribe or a representative of a co-operative society, the Janapad Panchayat shall co-opt one member from each of the three categories. The Janapad Panchayat so constituted has a term of five years. The members are honorary and they receive travelling and daily allowance for attending meetings only.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman are selected by the Janapad Panchayat from out of the elected members and their term is co-terminus with of the Janapad Panchayat. They preside over the meetings and have general and financial control over the affairs of the Janapad Panchayat. The Block Development Assistant is the Chief Executive Officer of the Janapad Panchayat.

The main function which the Janapad Panchayat performs are maintenance of primary and middle schools, Ayurvedic and Veterinary dispensaries, cattle pounds, management of small irrigation tanks, providing water-supply and other developmental works.

The details of the different Janapad Panchayats are given below—

Table No. XIV—8

Serial No.	Name of Janapada Panchayat	No. of Wards	No. of members
1	Seoni	22	22
2	Barghat	22	22
3	Keolari	19	19
4	Kurai	17	17
5	Lakhnadon	19	19
6	Chhapara	17	17
7	Ghansore	18	18
8	Dhanora	15	15
		149	149

Each of the Janapad Panchayats also co-opted 2 women and one member of scheduled caste as Panchas. After elections each of the Janapad Panchayats formed the Standing Committees on Education, Public Works, Public Health, Social Welfare, Taxation, Agriculture, Co-operation and Industries.

The detailed description regarding various Janapad Panchayats is given below :—

Seoni Janapad Panchayat

First General elections to the Janapad Panchayat under the new Act were completed in 1970. On the 1st June 1971 on which the Seoni Janapad Panchayat assumed Office, the Seoni Janapad Sabha stood dissolved and the old Local Government Act, 1948 repealed. In all four Janapad Panchayats, viz., Seoni, Barghat, Keolari and Kurai were formed in place of the Seoni Janapad Sabha and all the assets and liabilities of the outgoing local body were distributed between these newly constituted four Janapad Panchayats.

The Jurisdiction of the Seoni Janapad Panchayat attends to the entire area of the Seoni Block having population of 95,771. It has been divided in to 22 electoral (rural) and 1 Urban electoral divisions from which one member each is elected on the basis of adult franchise.

Income and Expenditure :— The table below shows the financial position of the Seoni Janapad Panchayat during the three years :—

Table No. XIV—9
Total Receipts and Expenditure

Year	Total receipts (in Rs.).	Expenditure (in Rs.).
1971-72	14,267	10,985
1972-73	1,34,146	63,012
1973-74	2,30,324	2,18,953

Expenditure :— The table below shows the details regarding the various items of expenditure incurred by the Janapad Panchayat, Seoni during the three years 1971-72 to 1973-74.

Table No. XIV—10
Expenditure on Different Items

Year	Public Health	Public Works	Veterinary	Education	Water Supply
1971-72	3,500	2,300	9,300	4,000	2,000
1972-73	20,000	1,900	9,672	25,053	4,500
1973-74	20,000	30,000	13,500	19,370	1,500

Janapad Panchayat, Lakhnadon

The Panchayat was constituted after elections on the 15th August, 1972. There are 19 elected members, 5 selected members (Chairman of Standing Committees), one nominated member (member of Vidhan Sabha and two Co-opted members).

Financial Position

The table below shows the financial position of the Janapada Panchayat for three years, i.e. 1971-72 to 1973-74.

Table No. XIV—11
Income and Expenditure

Year	Income	Expenditure
1971-72	12,996	295
1972-73	65,845	20,217
1973-74	47,691	97,491

The Panchayat maintains the Bal-Mandire, 3 Aurvedic dispensaries and one Homeopathic dispensary. The Water Supply scheme is maintained by the Gram Panchayat,

The formation of Zila Panchayat has not yet been done.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

For lack of positive evidence, it is difficult to give details of educational institutions in this area. In early times it can be presumed however, that education here, as elsewhere in the Country, in ancient times began in the home and later was imparted in *gurukula* (abode of the teacher), where pupils came to live with resident teachers. Education here was for the sake of knowledge and not for the sake of earning or livelihood. The pupil was the chief concern of the 'guru' who was at the centre of this system of education.

Before the beginning of the mediaeval period the system of imparting education in *pathshalas* had come into being. The institutions were attached either to the temples or houses of teachers. The instruction used to be imparted in vernacular. Later, in mediaeval times, Muslim institutions, known as *maktabs*, akin to *pathshalas* came into being. The *maktabs* were attached to the mosques and used to impart education in Persian language and were frequented by Hindus as well as Muslims. The discovery of a number of epigraphical records also indicates certain intellectual and literary advancement of the area.

After the advent of the British rule in the District; education continued to be imparted in private schools. A number of primary institutions, under private management, seem to have been in existence in Seoni District in the seventies of the 19th century.

The first Government schools in Seoni were opened in 1863. of these, a primary school (now Hindi Main Board School) at Seoni town could be said to be the pioneering institution in the sphere of primary education. In 1870 there were 137 students under instructions in this school, with Butterfield as its Head Master. Tremendous efforts must have been made for spreading education in the District to record a remarkable progress within a short span of three years. For, the number of schools rose from 44 in 1864 to 71 in 1867, and the number of scholars nearly doubled from 985 to 1839. In 1867, a demand for English education resulted in the transformation of the vernacular school at Seoni into an English middle school.¹

By the year 1870 there was further progress in education, when the number of schools and scholars went up to 85 and 2114, respectively. Seth

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 160.
Seoni-Prachin aur Arvachin, p. 70.

Rupchand an influential philanthropic person of Seoni received a gold watch and a seat in Darbar from the then Chief Commissioner, Sir Richard Temple, in recognition of his services to the cause of education.¹

Having realised that the increasing number of students would be attracted to the educational institutions if Vernacular was made the medium of instruction, the Government established vernacular schools at District and tahsil headquarters. Branch schools were also established where necessary. It was also felt that Normal Schools were necessary for the consistent progress of education. Normal Schools were therefore opened to train teachers.

To ensure effective working of these institutions, the Government introduced a system of inspection and examination. Seoni was placed, in 1875; under the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Schools, southern or Nagpur Inspection Circle. But with the formation of a fourth circle at Hoshangabad in 1905, Seoni was transferred to Jabalpur Circle. The Circle Inspector was assisted by Pargana visitors, styled as Deputy and Sub-Deputy Inspectors.

Institutions were dependent on four sources for their existence first, annual State grant; Second, cess levied at the rate of one per cent on land revenue which was subsequently increased to two per cent; three, voluntary private contributions and subscriptions and fourth, fees levied for the instruction of children.² Indigenous schools were given result grants. With a view to obtaining popular opinion on matters concerning education, as also to assist inspection, Committees were nominated for every school in the province.³

During the decade 1870-80, the position of the education received a set back both in respect of number of schools and students in Seoni District. The total number of schools declined to 33 in 1880-81 and scholars to merely 1,706. The percentage of scholars to the total population of the District worked out to 0.42. On an average there was one school for 99 sq. miles.⁴ During the next eleven years, that is at the end of 1891-92, the number of schools and scholars, however, increased to 51 and 2,663 respectively.

Each school served on an average an area of 63.66 sq miles in the District. At the same time the percentage of scholars to the total District population slightly improved to 0.725.⁵

In 1878, the Church of Scotland Mission opened one Anglo-Vernacular Middle School at Seoni. The school made rapid progress and was upgraded to

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 160.

2. Education Commission Report by the C. P. Provincial Committee, 1884. p. 8.

3. *ibid.* p. 9.

4. Report on the State and Progress of Education in C. P., 1880-81, Appx. Table IV—Edu. 4.

5. *ibid.*, 1891-22, Appx. Table IV—Edu. 4.

a High School in 1901. It had a branch at Chhapara. The same year foundation of the school building was laid, which was completed in 1906. Mission High School, Seoni was one of the seven aided High Schools in the Central Provinces. Of this School, the Inspector reported in 1902 thus¹ "the Seoni Mission High School is in a very thriving condition and promises to be a great success as a High School. At present the accommodation is very unsuitable and class rooms are very small and over crowded, but this state of affairs will cease shortly..... When the buildings are completed, the Seoni Mission School will probably be the best appointed High School in the Provinces."

In those early days there was a three-tier system of control of the primary education—the civil authorities, the Education Department (it had come into being in 1862, soon after the formation of the Central Provinces) and the local bodies, being partly responsible for the same. From 1885, the management of schools, both for boys and girls was handed over to the District Councils. With the object, therefore, of enhancing the value and importance of examination, and thereby stimulating primary education, it was decided by the Government to make it²

- (1) The test for admission into Government service for minor appointment.
- (2) The condition of admission into an Anglo-Vernacular School.
- (3) The test for awarding middle school scholarships and prizes in Agriculture.

A decade later (in 1902-03), however, the Middle and Upper and Lower primary examination was abolished.

At the turn of the century, that is in 1900-1901, there were 58 schools in Seoni District, with 2928 scholars. In the year 1902-03, out of 49053 children of school going age in the District, 4,139 children were under instruction. Of these 229 were in secondary schools and 3,556 in primary schools³.

The progress of education was much retarded by the famines of 1896 and 1900. In 1905-06 out of 4627 children, 38 were in the high school, 137 in English middle schools and the remainder in vernacular middle or primary schools. The proportion of boys in receipt of instruction to those of school-going age was 9. In 1901 the proportion of male literates per 1000 of population was 43 for the District⁴. The total number of schools in that year was 65. A decade later, in 1910-11, out of 59,365 children of school going-age in the District 5,677 were in schools. Of these, 622 were in secondary schools and 4,588 in primary schools⁵.

1. *ibid.*, 1902-03, p. 11, *Seoni Prachin aur Arvachin*, p. 73.

2. Report on the State and Progress of Education in C. P. 1891-92, p. 114

3. *ibid.* 1902-03, p. 4.

4. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 161.

5. Report on the State and progress of Education in C. P. 1910-11, Appx p. XXIX

A decision of far-reaching importance which gave impetus to the growth of secondary education, was taken by the Government in the year 1909-10. The Government decided to establish a model high school, with middle school attached to it, at the headquarters of each district and a model middle school at each tahsil headquarters. Under this plan, some of the municipal and private schools were provincialised and others were to follow. At the same time the existing middle schools at the district headquarters were raised to the rank of high schools. A new Grant-in-Aid Code was also drawn up for the encouragement of private institutions¹. The District Councils were debarred from financing secondary education. Their chief function was to finance and manage primary and vernacular middle schools. The Municipalities were not, however, debarred from managing secondary schools, if they first provided for primary education².

Education continued to make slow but steady progress during the next two decades. In 1930-31, there were 98 primary schools for boys, with 6,831 scholars on the rolls. The teaching staff in the District Council schools in that year consisted of 268 teachers, of whom 240 (89.6 per cent) were trained. The Municipal schools had 22 teachers in all, of whom 15 (68.2 per cent) were trained³.

The total number of schools and scholars in different years since 1864 is given below :—

Table No. XV-1
Number of schools and scholars

Year	No. of Schools	No. of Scholars
1864	44	985
1867	71	1,839
1870	85	2,114
1880-81	33	1,786
1891-92	51	2,663
1900-01	58	2,928
1901-02	59	3,271
1905-06	N.A.	4,627
1910-11	N.A.	5,677
1920-21	106	4,301
1930-31	111	6,003
1934-35	103	5,450
1936-37	106	5,669
1940-41	108	5,848

Literacy and Educational Standards

In 1951 the present Seoni District, comprising Seoni and Lakhnadon tahsils, was part of Chhindwara district. The total rural population of these two

1. *ibid.* p. 1, *ibid.*, 1909-10, p. 2.

2. *ibid.* Report for the Quinquennium ending 31st March, 1912, p. 6.

3. *ibid.* 1930-31, p. 32.

tahsils was 4,09,037, of whom 40,080 (9.79 per cent) were literate. The total female literacy in the rural areas of both the tahsils was 3.92 per cent. Amongst the literate persons 31,927 were males and 8,123 were females. In Seoni tahsil, out of the total rural population of 2,55,269 persons, 24,597 (9.63 per cent) were literate. While male literacy here was 17.92 per cent, the female literacy was very low, that is only 1.64 per cent. Lakhnadon tahsil had a slight edge over Seoni tahsil, where out of 1,53,768 persons, 15,453 (10.04 per cent) were literate. However, as compared to Seoni tahsil, female literacy was higher (7.80 per cent) in Lakhnadon tahsil. The Census of 1951 records a population of 25,025 in Seoni town, with 6,630 male and 2,819 female literates. The total literacy in the town was 37.75 per cent.

According to the Census of 1961, the general literacy rate in the District was 17.05 per cent. It was not much behind the State average of 24.0 per cent. Literate and educated persons constituted 15.2 per cent of the total rural population. This was much above the State average of 12.7 per cent. The urban areas had a literacy percentage of 47 per cent. Male and female literacy was 27.3 and 6.8 per cent, respectively. Seoni tahsil with a literacy percentage of 19.3 is much ahead of the entirely rural Lakhnadon tahsil, which had a literacy percentage of 13.1.

Amongst the literate and educated persons, 70.9 per cent did not have any educational levels. A little more than one-fourth (25.2%) had passed primary school examination. The proportion of those who received education upto matriculation and higher levels was merely 3.2 per cent.

There were 90,313 literate and educated persons in the District in 1961. Of them 63,083 persons (46,772 males and 14,311 females) were literate without educational level, 24,429 persons (20,035 males and 3,394 females) were educated upto primary or junior basic level and only 2,801 persons (2,483 males and only 318 females) had education up to matriculation or above levels. The following table according to 1961 Census gives the distribution of literate and educated population by educational standards in the urban areas of the District.

Table No. XV-2
Educational Standards

Educational Standards	TOTAL		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
Literate (without educational level)	8,532	5,063	3,469
Primary or Junior Basic	4,045	3,163	882
Matriculation or Higher Secondary	1,355	1,140	215
Technical Diploma	6	6	..
Non-Technical Diploma	1	1	..
University Degree or Post-Graduate other than Technical Degree	236	210	26
Technical Degree	5	5	..

1	2	3	4
Engineering	17	15	2
Medicine	4	4	..
Agriculture—	3	3	..
Veterinary	1	1	..
Technology	20	14	6
Teaching	63	31	32
Others			

According to Census 1971 out of a total population of 668,362 in all 142,396 persons (21.31 per cent) were literate. Out of this 106,351 (31.61) were males and only 36,045 (10.66) were females. In urban areas 24,109 persons (14,993 males and 9116 females) were found literate in all educational standards.

Spread of Education among Women

The traditional apathy towards female education, borne out of conservatism, resulted in a very low percentage of literacy among the women folk. Nevertheless the initial steps for spreading education among women were taken in the District more than a century back with the opening of a girls' school at Seoni in the year 1868. A year later, three more girls' schools were opened at Chhapara, Lakhnadon and Dhuma. In 1892-93 out of 3015 children under instruction, 239 (7.92 per cent) were girls.

For improvement of female education the Government decided in the year 1902-03 to provincialise girls' schools, which were till then under the management of Local Bodies. By taking this measure the Government thought that "there is reason to hope that this may result in the gradual removal of the reproach against this Province in the matter of female education." Consequently, in 1903 the girls' schools at Seoni, Chhapara, Lakhnadon, Adegaoon and Dhuma were made Government institutions. One more Government girls' school was opened at Keolari in 1905. The seven girls' schools contained 391 pupils in all. Five years later, in the year 1910-11, out of 5,677 children under instruction in the District, 467 (or 8.22 per cent) were girls. In 1927 one of the primary schools for girls was converted into a Urdu government girls primary school.

As for education of girls beyond primary stage, the Seoni municipality started a girls' middle school in the year 1932, with only five pupils. Later it was upgraded to a high school. In 1942, out of 6 girls who appeared for the examination of High School Board, only one was successful. In 1947 the management of this institution was taken over by the Government. In 1947-48 it had 153 girls on the rolls. A decade later, that is, in 1957 the total enrolment increased to 338.

It was only after the attainment of Independence that concerted efforts were made for spreading education among the people in general and among the

females in particular. Thus, at the end of the Second Five Year Plan (1960-61) there were 27 girls' primary schools, with 8,527 students and 93 female teachers. At the close of the Third Five Year Plan (1965-66) the number of schools increased to 35, with 11,108 pupils and 145 teachers. In 1971-72 there were 42 girls' primary schools, with 13,262 students and 198 female teachers.

In the sphere of middle school education the number of girls, middle schools increased from 2 in 1960-61 to 8 in 1965-66 and to 10 in 1971-72. At the same time the number of girls under instruction increased from 519 in 1960-61 to 1,116 in 1971-72. There was only one girls' higher secondary school in the District in 1955-56, which increased to 2 in 1960-61 and to 3 in 1971-72. During the same period the number of girl students more than doubled from 505 in 1955-56 to 1,116 in 1960-61 and further to 1,439 in 1971-72. In the following year, although there was no change in the number of schools, the number of students increased to 1,639.

Spread of Education Among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Literacy among the Scheduled Castes in Seoni is higher than in many other districts of Madhya Pradesh. According to the Census, 1961, literacy among the Scheduled Caste population in the district was 12.8 per cent, as compared to 17.05 per cent literacy in general population. Literacy among Scheduled Caste males was 22.6 per cent (27.4 per cent among males in general population). But was low among the females, being only 2.9 per cent.

Among the literate and educated, a very high proportion, i.e. 73.2 per cent did not have any educational levels, 25.9 per cent had passed primary school examination and only 1 per cent passed matriculation and post-matric qualifications.

Mahar or Mehra, who constituted more than half of the Scheduled Caste population of the district, was then most advanced Schedule Caste having literacy percentage of 15, compared to 1.8 per cent for the Schedule Castes as a whole. The next most numerous Schedule Caste in the district was that of Chamars, who had a literacy percentage of 7.6. Thus, this is much behind the general population and the Mahar Caste in literacy. Basors had a literacy of 8.98 per cent.

The Scheduled Tribes constitute 38.4 per cent or nearly two-fifths of the population of the district. Educationally, the tribes are lagging far behind the general population and the dominant Scheduled Caste Mahar or Mehra. Among the Scheduled Tribes, Gond and Pardhan together account for 58.7 per cent of the tribal population. Of these two, Gonds constitute nine-tenth of the Scheduled Tribes population. Percentage of literate and educated among the Scheduled Tribe was 7.6 in 1961, as compared to 17 per cent in general population and 12.8 per cent among the Scheduled Castes. A vast majority, i.e., 81.3 per cent of those returned as literate and educated do not possess any educational levels.

18.4 per cent had passed primary school examination, while only 0.3 per cent possessed matriculation and higher qualifications.

There were 11 primary schools with 195 boys and 61 girls on the rolls at the end of the Third Five Year Plan period (1965-66). The number of schools and students increased to 22 and 485 boys and 162 girls in 1967-68 and further to 32 primary schools, with 1011 boys and 395 girls on the rolls in 1971-72.

During the same period the number of middle schools for the tribes increased from 2 in 1965-66 to 8 in 1971-72. The number of boys and girls under instruction increased from 55 and 4, respectively in 1965-66 to 192 and 44 in 1971-72. A higher secondary school was also opened for the tribal students in 1969-70. It had 40 boys and 15 girls on the rolls.

In the year 1950-51, there was a boys' hostel, in existence for 30 students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Until 1960-61, there was no change either in the number of hostels or in the number of students. At the end of Third Five Year Plan, however, the number of hostels for boys increased to 6, which together had 130 inmates. A girls' hostel was also established, which had 30 inmates. The number of boys' hostels increased to 16 with 465 inmates in 1968-69 and to an impressive total of 26 hostels, with 735 inmates in 1971-72. There was no change either in the number of hostel or inmates of girls' hostel. Details of the hostel facilities for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given in Appendix.

Under the scheme of grant of scholarships, the Tribal and Harijan Welfare Department distributed an amount of Rs. 1,54,485 to 1250 Adivasi and 701 Harijan students during 1966-67 for pre-matric education. In the same year, similar amount was distributed for post-matric studies. During the year 1968-69 in all 1450 Adivasi and 803 Harijan students were recipients of scholarships amounting to Rs. 2,20,062 for pre-matric and 90 Adivasi and 98 Harijan students received an amount of Rs. 44,915 for post-matric studies. There was a slight fall both in the amount and the number of students in 1971-72, when 1056 Adivasi and 710 Harijan students got scholarships totalling Rs. 1,42,917 for pre-matric studies. During the same year 42 Adivasi and 69 Harijan students received scholarships amounting to Rs. 39,204. Details for the various years since 1966-67 are given in Appendix. In addition to this, the Government distributed books and slates to the Adivasi students and spent an amount of Rs. 24,158 between 1968-69 and 1971-72.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Pre-Primary Education

Pre-primary education prepares young children between the ages 3-6 years for primary education. At the end of the Third Five Year Plan there were 4 pre-primary schools in the district with 42 boys and 50 girls. The

number of schools remained unchanged during the next decade, when in 1971-72, the number of schools increased to 6 with 121 boys and 156 girls on the rolls. The expenditure on their maintenance was Rs. 7,533 in 1960-61 and Rs. 10,729 in 1971-72. The details of schools, students and expenditure from 1960-61 to 1971-72 are given in Appendix.

Primary Education

In order to fulfill the constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory primary education to children below 14 years of age, much emphasis was laid in the post-Independence period for advancing primary education. At the end of the First Five Year Plan (1955-56) there were 269 primary schools with 16,562 pupils on the rolls. In all 502 teachers were manning these institution on which an expenditure of Rs. 3,27,210 was incurred. During next Plan period, the number of schools and scholars had increased to 380 and 28,808 respectively. The number of teachers and expenditure also increased to 865 and Rs. 6,96,640 respectively. At the end of the Third Five Year Plan, the number of primary schools, scholars and teachers further rose to 461 and 35,045 and 1,156 (including 145 female teachers), respectively. Thus, it will be seen that the number of students under instructions in primary schools of the district more than doubled during the two Plan periods. The expenditure on the maintenance of these schools stood at Rs. 17,06,425 in 1965-66. In 1971-72 there were 561 schools, 38,626 students, and 1,341 teachers, including 198 female teachers. The total expenditure on primary schools during the year amounted to Rs. 47,705. Details of primary education for the various years have been given in Appendix.

Compulsory Primary Education

Compulsory primary education was introduced in the various districts of the Mahakoshal region under the Central Provinces and Berar Primary Education Act of 1920. The Act was later replaced by the Madhya Pradesh Compulsory Education Act of 1956. This in its turn was replaced in 1962 by a new Act for the reorganised State of Madhya Pradesh. The figures for earlier years are not available. In 1955-56, however, 11 institutions were functioning under this scheme with 632 boys and 391 girls on their rolls. These were managed by 22 teachers.

A decade later, that is in 1965-66 the number of institutions had gone up to 153 including 18 for girls, with 5,606 boys and 4,271 girls under instruction. The number of teachers also went up to 337. This remarkable progress achieved during the previous decade was kept up during the succeeding years. Thus in 1971-72, the number of institutions nearly doubled to 295, as compared to 153 in 1965-66. At the same time the number of scholars and teachers went up to 14,602 including 6,165 girls and 551 teachers, respectively. Detailed figures since 1955-56 are given in Appendix.

Middle School Education

During the last sixteen years, that is between the years 1955-56 to 1971-72 the number of institutions imparting education up to middle school standard have increased five-fold, having gone up from 15 in 1955-56 to 38 in 1965-66 and to 75 in 1971-72. During the same period, the number of scholars has gone up from 316 in 1955-56 to 9,470 in 1971-72 and the number of teachers from 113 in 1955-56 to 468 in 1971-72. At the same time expenditure on managing these institutions recorded manifold increase from Rs. 73,757 in 1955-56 to Rs. 16,18,905 in 1971-72.

Basic Education

The Government have pursued a policy of switching over from the traditional to the Basic type of education. Basic schools are of two categories — junior basic schools and senior basic schools. In all these institutions, providing basic education, teaching of crafts forms an important part of curriculum. In 1955-56 there were 18 junior basic schools, with 1752 students and 45 teachers. Total expenditure on them amounted to Rs. 28,512. A decade later, in 1965-66, the number of schools and teachers went up to 45 and 3822 (including 923 girls), respectively. One of the schools was for girls and although the number of institutions remained unchanged till 1971-72, the total students on the rolls increased to 5,064. The total expenditure on these schools, which were managed by 114 teachers, was Rs. 3,94,559 in 1971-72. Detailed figures of schools, students and expenditure are given in the Appendix.

So far as the senior basic schools are concerned, the district had only one school at the end of the First Five Year Plan (1955-56), with 316 boys on the rolls. An expenditure of Rs. 7,562 was incurred on its maintenance. In 1965-66 the number of schools went up to 11 with 925 students. There was no separate girls' senior basic school, but all the institutions were co-educational in character. In 1971-72 there was no change in the number of institutions, and the number of scholars was almost the same. The total number of boys and girls under instruction has shown fluctuating trend. The expenditure, however, increased to Rs. 1,68,428.

Secondary Education

The growth of primary and middle school education inevitably led to the growth of secondary education in the district. As stated before, Seoni had a high school as early as in 1901. At the end of the Second Five Year Plan (1960-61) there were 8 boys' high schools and 1 girls' high school with 2,747 boys and 505 girls on the rolls. In all 204 teachers were working in these institutions and an amount of Rs. 26,90,885 was spent on them. By the end of the Third Plan period (1965-66), the number of boys and girls higher secondary schools had increased to 19 and 2, with 6,055 and 1,116 students, respectively. In that year the total expenditure increased to Rs. 35,37,735. In 1972-73 there were 22 boys and

3 girls higher secondary schools, with 5,774 boys and 1,639 girls, respectively on the rolls. The expenditure in that year had increased to Rs.1,03,85,126.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION

Government College, Seoni

Until 1958 facilities of Collegiate education were not available in the District. A few leading persons of Seoni, who were devoted to the cause of education, formed Seoni Education Society and established Shikhar Chard Jain Arts, Commerce and Science College at Seoni on 14th August, 1958. The College continued under private management till 1st September 1962 when it was taken over by the Government. In the year 1973 the College was upgraded to the post-graduate level in Arts, Commerce and Science faculties. In arts faculty, the post-graduate teaching is being imparted in Economics, Political Science and Hindi and in the science faculty in Chemistry.

The gradual growth of the College is reflected in the increasing strength of students in arts, commerce and science faculties alike. Thus, the number of students in arts increased from 98 in 1962-63 to 389 in 1969-70, in science from 56 to 224 and in commerce from 42 to 114 during the same period. In subsequent period the number of students in all the three faculties has shown fluctuation. Expenditure on the management of the College was Rs.41,020 in 1962-63, which increased to Rs. 2,83,625 in 1972-73. The following table shows the number of students in different faculties and the expenditure since 1962-63.

Table No. XV-3
Progres of Government College

Year	No. of Students			Expenditure (Rs.)
	Arts	Science	Commerce	
1962-63	98	56	42	41,020
1963-64	105	52	56	37,00
1964-65	122	40	65	1,30,907
1965-66	149	36	79	1,37,833
1966-67	200	79	80	1,91,521
1967-68	256	110	73	2,16,165
1968-69	203	129	50	2,38,109
1969-70	389	224	114	3,21,916
1970-71	265	192	128	3,04,557
1971-72	278	204	130	2,56,644
1972-73	219	168	118	2,83,625
1973-74	329	126	205	3,52,304
1974-75	397	125	177	4,42,504

The College has a library of its own having books on the various Subjects taught in it

Polytechnic, Seoni.

With a view to providing facilities of technical education to the local students, Polytechnic Society, Seoni was constituted. This Society collected donations of Rs. 2,75,000 from the Janapada Sabha, Seoni and Rs. 25,000 from the Seoni Municipality and established the Polytechnic in 1963. In the beginning course in Civil Engineering only was started. The idea of starting courses in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering in the Polytechnic was given up in view of the availability of increasing number of technical hands.

In 1966-67 the total enrolment in the institution was 64, which increased to 89 in 1971-72. The total expenditure on the Polytechnic is shared by the Government of India and the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 40 per cent and 60 per cent basis, respectively. In 1966-67 an expenditure of Rs. 5,31,574 was incurred on the management of this institution. In 1971-72, however the expenditure had declined to Rs. 2,47,401.

The following table gives figures of income and expenditure since 1964-65.

Table No. XV-5
Income and Expenditure on Polytechnic

Year	Income Rs.	Expenditure Rs.
1964-65	5,127.32	1,08,580.08
1965-66	9,549.10	48,988.21
1966-67	11,461.68	5,31,574.38
1967-68	10,419.52	4,30,166.77
1968-69	18,208.25	2,68,909.29
1969-70	23,095.78	2,75,635.01
1970-71	18,003.11	3,17,135.26
1971-72	17,686.45	2,47,401.26
1972-73	23,488.15	2,49,388.86
1973-74	17,552.43	2,91,466.68
1974-75	18,205.73	3,24,678.81

A hostel providing accommodation for 40 students was under construction. There is a good library attached to it.

Adult Literacy and Social Education

In the post-Independence period special efforts have been made to eradicate illiteracy from amongst the adult sections of the population. This was sought to be achieved by opening adult education centres and by utilising the various media of mass communication. This task has been entrusted to the Directorate of Panchayats and Social Welfare.

In 1960-61 there were 309 adult educational centres in the District and out of 3,947 persons enrolled as pupils, 2312 persons (including 468 women) passed the examination. After over a decade, that is 1971-72, the number of centres was reduced to 43. Out of 835 pupils enrolled in them 574 persons, including 190 women, passed the examination. Details of the number of centres, adults admitted and passed examination are given in the Appendix.

At the same time, 830 Cinema shows and 506 Kala-Pathak programmes were organised in the year 1960-61. In that year, there were 104 circulating library centres. Five years later, that is in 1965-66 the Social Welfare Department arranged 619 cinema shows and 417 Kalapathak programmes and was maintaining 204 circulating library centres. In 1971-72, however, only 70 cinema shows and 70 Kalapathak programmes were arranged, but the number of circulating library centres increased to 279.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Facilities in Early Times

For want of authentic information it is difficult to say about the medical facilities available in the District in early times. However, scattered references here and there show that *Ayurved* must have been the earliest system of medicine known to this place as elsewhere in the State. The cheapness, availability and efficacy of these medicines must have made them popular. Another system of indigenous medicine that came to flourish in this area along with the Muslim rule was the *Unani*. The *Hakims*, who practised *Unani* were mostly in the urban areas, while the *Vaidyas* had their sway in the rural areas.

The introduction of Western or allopathic medicine can be traced back to the advent of British rule in this area in 1818. Here again, available records do not make specific references regarding the growth of the medical establishment except a mention that in 1861, immediately after the formation of the Central Provinces, charitable dispensaries were opened in all district headquarters, including perhaps Seoni. However, charitable dispensaries did exist at Seoni (known as Seoni main) and Lakhnadon in 1891, for they provided in-door and outdoor facilities to respectively 11 and 70 patients in the former and 4 and 31 patients in the latter on an average every day. This was followed by the opening of a dispensary at Keolari in 1904, and another at Chhapara in 1905. These two dispensaries mostly dealt with outdoor cases, but provided indoor facilities to emergency cases.

Thus, the old District Gazetteer of Seoni reports that, in 1907 there were 4 public dispensaries at Seoni, Lakhnadon, Keolari and Chhapara besides a private dispensary for women and children maintained by the Church of Scotland Mission at Seoni. The departmental hospitals and dispensaries in the District included one Police Hospital at Seoni and two dispensaries of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at Seoni and Ghansor, respectively. The 4 public dispensaries together provided indoor facilities for 46 patients while 12 in-patients could be treated at the Police Hospital.

The management of the dispensary was entrusted to a dispensary committee which consisted of civil officers of the District and prominent men of the locality. Medicines and medical treatment were rendered free of cost. The income of the public dispensaries in 1903 was Rs. 17,000, of which the greater part was provided from provincial and local funds. The general supervision and control of the dispensaries rested with the Civil Surgeon.

Two more dispensaries were opened at Barghat in 1908 and Ghansor in 1917, the Barghat dispensary providing indoor treatment from the year 1911, while that of Ghansor had it only from 1927.

From 1931 to 1956, the District remained a part of Chhindwara district. There was not much of a change in the number of dispensaries and medical facilities during this period. All these dispensaries were placed in the third class, while the Female Mission Hospital at Seoni was in the fourth class. In 1946 the six government hospitals at Seoni, Lakhnadon, Keolari, Chhapara, Barghat and Ghansor offered medical treatment to 75,291 patients. The number of patients treated by the Female Mission Hospital in the same year was 2,153.

VITAL STATISTICS

Immediately after the formation of the Central Provinces in 1861 steps were taken to evolve a systematic registration of vital occurrences. But the arrangements were complete only sometime in 1867. The agencies entrusted with the collection of vital statistics were the Municipal Police in the urban areas and Patwaris (Village accountants) in the rural areas. The area to be covered by these agencies were too vast, with the result, the figures collected were often unreliable. The Government of India issued new set of registration forms in 1870. The registration which had been limited to municipal towns and select rural tracts has now been extended to all parts of the District. Under this arrangement the village Kotwar mostly reported vital occurrences in the villages if the distance to the nearest police station was not too far; but the house holder who was responsible for reporting in the urban area often failed to do so in time. The figures thus remained defective.

On 1st of January, 1920, a new system of registration was introduced wherein the towns were required to publish weekly returns. Deaths under one year were also subdivided into (1) upto one week, (2) between one week and one month, (3) one month to six months, and (4) seven to twelve months. This facilitated speedy reporting. The various registers were periodically inspected by revenue, medical and police officers, and by the vaccination staff.

Formerly the Municipal Committees and similar bodies recorded births and deaths in respect of urban areas and submitted a statement to the Civil Surgeon. The vital occurrences were also reported to the nearest police stations, from where the report was passed on to the Civil Surgeon. In the rural areas the Kotwars reported vital events to the Station Houses for onward transmission to the Civil Surgeon. The Civil Surgeon compiled separate figures for rural and urban areas and transmitted the same to the Director of Health Services, Bhopal.

Present Set-up

With effect from 1st April, 1970 the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, XVIII of 1969, promulgated by the Government of India, came into force in Madhya Pradesh. The Station Officers in rural areas have been declared Registrars

of Births and Deaths under the Act. So also, in urban areas, the Chief Municipal officers, the Health officers of Corporations and Town Administrators of Public Sector Undertakings began to function as Registrars of Births and Deaths. In respect of forest villages the Range Officer functions as the Registrar. They send monthly returns of vital occurrences to the District Registrar (District Statistical Officer). The District Registrar compiles figures and sends them to the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths (Director of Economics and Statistics), Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The District Registrar-cum-District Statistical Officer is responsible for imparting training to the primary agency in the Urban and rural areas as regards improvement in the collection of vital statistics. He is also responsible for the general supervision and inspection of the work done by the Registrars at the municipalities and at the police Stations.

Birth-rate

Since the enforcement of the Act there has been marked improvement in the quality and coverage of registration of Births and Deaths and maintenance of vital statistics. Starting with 15,221 births in 1891 (41.05 per mille) the average birth rate for the decade ending 1900 was 33.09 per mille though it varied from 21.83 (lowest) in 1897 to 46.81 (highest) in 1900. From 1901 to 1940, i.e., for a period of four decades the birth-rate was mostly above 40 per mille. The only years in which the birth-rate was lower than this were 1901 and 1918 to 1922. The highest birth rate during the period was in 1904 (58.27 per mille) and 1906 (55.73 per mille) while the lowest in 1920 (25.16). As against 40.23 in 1941 the birth-rate in 1957 was 54.98 per mille. The birth-rate did not show much fluctuation in subsequent three years which recorded 57.93, 52.56 and 45.30 per mille, respectively. The higher birth-rate obtaining in these years could be attributed to the extension of medical facilities to the interior of the District and advanced medical treatment facilities for expectant mothers.

Death-rate

The highest death-rate in the last decade of 19th century was in 1897 when it recorded 77.53 deaths per mille. Fever (16,954) and cholera (1,648) contributed chiefly to a total number of 26,537 deaths in that year. In the first four decades of the current century, starting with 19.33 deaths per mille in 1901 the death-rate mostly varied between 25 and 40 per mille. In 1918 the death-rate was appallingly high when it recorded 47,496 deaths (112.09 per mille). Fever was responsible for the largest number of deaths during that year when it took a toll of as many as 42,944 lives under the spell of a devastating country wide Influenza epidemic. The other two years which recorded a high rate of mortality during this period were 1920 (82.97 per mille) and 1921 (51.3 per mille). Whereas fever (27,073) and plague (1,845) were responsible for this high mortality in 1920, cholera

alone (5,224) made the major contribution in 1921. In 1941 the death-rate was 31.37 per mille. As against this the death-rate in 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 were 27.99, 19.32, 20.96 and 16.79 per mille, respectively. Perhaps the provision of increased medical facilities all over the District and successful control of epidemics are the factors responsible for a favourable decline in the death-rate.

Outbreaks of epidemic diseases were not uncommon in the District. There was a total mortality of 10,000 persons from epidemics during the period 1891-1901. The number of deaths attributed to cholera alone during this period was 873 in 1891; 1,396 in 1892; 341 in 1895; 3,516 (the highest) in 1896; 1,648 in 1897 and 1,032 in 1900.

Epidemics

Because of intensive precautionary measures, no cases of cholera were reported between 1901 and 1905 and on the whole the District was noticeably free from this disease. In 1906 cholera killed 411 persons in the District followed by another major attack in 1919 when it was responsible for 480 deaths. But there was a very severe outbreak of cholera in 1921 taking a toll of 5,224 lives. This is the highest number of mortality caused by this disease in the history of the District.

Smallpox appeared to be endemic but the death had only once exceeded 2 per mille of population in 1882 when the number of deaths reported was 743. The years 1896, 1902 and 1913 also recorded 500, 584 and 473 deaths respectively.

Plague made its first appearance in the District in 1903 when it was responsible for 3 deaths. But it assumed epidemic form in 1907, 1912, 1915 and 1920 when it took the lives of 1,112, 893, 1,695 and 1,845 persons respectively. The District was free from this disease in recent years.

There was a marked improvement in the public health conditions of Seoni during the latter part of the first half of the current century. The countrywide Influenza epidemic of 1918-19 was the greatest killer in modern times when it swept off a big population of 42,944. The health of the people during the 3 decades 1921-51 has been reported to be generally good.

Lathyrism

An outbreak of lathyrism occurred in 1897, and a number of persons were seen in the smaller villages with their limbs more or less, paralysed. But the people were well aware that the disease arose from the consumption of *stura* (*Lathyrus Sativus*) and were likely to eat this pulse except as an alternative to starvation.

Leprosy

Cases of Leprosy have been rare in the District since the beginning, with the result, according to the report received from the Leprosy Expert, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, it was not necessary to undertake intensive measures in the district under the National Leprosy Control Programme. However, since 1962-63

there has been a Leprosy Clinic (dispensary and hospital) attached to the District Hospital, Seoni to provide preventive and curative treatment to the cases in the District, to avoid the spread of this communicable disease.

Infant Mortality

The position as regards infant mortality in the District has been changing without any correlation with the figures of the previous years. The lowest infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 9.87 in 1962 while the highest was 12 in 1965. In 1971, the corresponding figure was 96.57.

The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births was 1.77 in 1969. It gradually came down and was 1.61 in 1971. The table given below shows in details of the number of births, deaths, and the various rates of mortality etc.

Table No. XVI-1
Vital Statistics

S. No.	Item	1961	1971	1972	1973	1974
1.	Births	15,168	23,199	23,593	21,631	23,478
2.	Deaths	7,292	8,943	11,090	10,003	8,464
3.	Births rate (per mille)	28.7	35.29	34.35	30.79	32.72
4.	Death rate (Per mile)	13.8	13.38	16.1	14.24	11.80
5.	Infant Mortality rate (per 1,00 live births)	47.0	96.57	116.94	108.45	80.16
6.	Maternal Mortality rate (per 1,00 total births)	..	1.61	2.58	1.75	1.82

Important Causes of Mortality

Fever has been the most important cause of mortality in the District. Other important causes of mortality were respiratory diseases, diarrhoea, dysentery and accidental injuries. Smallpox which took a heavy toll in 1969 and 1970 was not so severe in other recent years. The following Table gives the number of deaths from various causes which occurred in the District.—

Table No. XVI-2
Deaths Caused by Various Diseases

Year	Total deaths	Cholera	Small-pox	Plague	Respiratory	Fever	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	Accidents & injuries	All other causes
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1966	8,283	..	..	..	197	5,512	143	..	2,431
1967	8,605	..	1	..	154	5,579	191	9	2,431
1968	8,820	..	62	..	374	5,669	439	86	2,190
1969	10,123	3	729	..	625	6,831	489	132	1,314
1970	9,627	..	..	..	645	6,441	681	119	1,565
1971	8,943	..	80	..	812	4,816	444	248	2,543
1972	11,090	14	38	..	1,124	5,940	603	248	3,123
1973	9,855	139	25	..	658	6,192	241	248	2,354
1974	8,464	50	28	..	459	5,669	290	302	1,666

Diseases Common to the District

From a perusal of the preceding description on the important causes of mortality, one gets an idea of the diseases which are common to the district. Pulmonary tuberculosis, malaria, smallpox, etc., come in that category. However, there are certain other common diseases also which affect the population. Gastroenteritis, eye diseases, etc., may be enumerated under this classification.

Here is a short description of both types of common disease in the district.

Tuberculosis

In 1955, the number of persons tested for the probability of this fatal disease was 15,713. This number increased to 20,310 in 1958. As a result of the tests, the number of those who were vaccinated was 5,441 and 7,341 respectively. This work was performed by the Jabalpur Unit which had jurisdiction over 5 districts, including Seoni.¹

In 1962 and 1963, 30,834 and 24,520 cases were tested out of which 12,368 and 10,012 persons were respectively vaccinated. In 1968-69, Seoni district was temporarily linked with Chhindwara Tuberculosis Sanatorium where there was sufficient arrangement for diagnosis and treatment.² This arrangement continued till 1972. Seoni district was to be separately served by a few sub-centres during the Fourth Plan period and these sub-centres started functioning since 1972-73 serve the rural areas. In 1972, the total number of cases registered was 1,98,041, out of which 47,922 persons were directly vaccinated.

Malarial Fever

In the first decade of this century, prevalence of Malaria has been described in the old Gazetteer thus :

"At the beginning of the rains, it is not uncommon to meet with cases of mild fever which lasts only a short time. They are not true malaria cases but analogous to the seven day fever. Cases of enlarged spleen are not infrequent, the bulk of them coming from below the hills on the Nagpur side or from the villages in the north-east along the Nerubudda. All such cases are due to the true malarial cachexia."³

This description is still applicable though the enormity of the disease is not high now specially due to the effective implementation of anti-malarial operations. The disease is particularly prevalent in the Tribal areas, where there are dense forests, mountain ranges and numerous streams. This part is classified under mesoendemic area as regards this disease.⁴

Small Pox

It is not a very common Disease in the district, though important from the point of view of preventive medical operations.

1. Seoni District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. 296.

2. Lok Swasthya Vibhag Ka Varshik Prashashkiya Prativedan 1968-69 p. 12.

3. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, p. 43.

4. The Conquest of Malaria in Madhya Pradesh, pp. 1-2.

The table given below gives the number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations in its District.

Table No. XVI-3
Vaccination statistics

Year	Number of Vaccination	Number of Re-Vaccination
1957	12,568	28,345
1958	12,418	29,432
1959	13,547	33,283
1960	16,578	33,162
1965	21,232	42,230
1970	28,990	73,350
1971	35,521	99,870
1972	1,57,570	3,26,546
1973	24,561	54,714
1974	22,375	62,864

This massive vaccination programme was launched during the Second Plan, and 3,30,976 persons were covered in 1962-63 under the Eradication Programme. It had far reaching effects with the result that in 1963, there were only 13 deaths in all in the entire district due to smallpox, all of which were in the rural areas. Again in 1964 about 79.20% in 1965 about 94% and in 1966, the entire population of the district was vaccinated with the result that in 1967 only 13 persons suffered from this disease, out of which only one died.

Gastroenteritis

In 1965, 39 persons suffered from this disease out of which 20 died.¹ Again in 1969 in all 9 persons suffered out of which 3 died.²

Eye Diseases

Eye diseases were very common in the beginning of the current century, especially granular ophthalmia and this disease was often met within men than women. Even at that time the proportion of blind was somewhat lower than the provincial average. Since then, especially in post-independence period, conditions have changed considerably and on account of increased medical facilities, there is sufficient check on all sorts of eye diseases. However, the percentage of Trachoma incidence was found to be 54.4 in a survey conducted in 1961.³

Seoni was one of the 6 districts in the State selected for the organisation of eye camps in 1962-63. Lakhnadon was the place chosen for the purpose and in order to draw the attention of general public wide publicity and propaganda was undertaken through posters and leaflets. Patients admitted for operation were provided boarding and lodging facilities free of charge. Deserving person were also provided with glasses free of charge.

1. Swasthya Vibhag Ki Sakriyata Ka Samshipta Vivaran, 1965, pp 22-23.

2. Lok Swasthya Vibhag Ka Varshik Prashashkiya Prativedan, 1969-70 p. 20.

3. Health Services in Madhya Pradesh, 1956-61, p. 20.

Table No. XVI-4

Number of Hospitals and Dispensaries in the District (1957-74)

Description	Year					
	1957	1960	1965	1970	1973	1974
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Primary Health Centres						
(a) Number	4	5	8	8	8	8
(b) Number of beds	21	24	54	54	54	54
2. Hospitals including Nursing Homes						
(a) Number	1	1	1	1	1	1
(b) Number of beds	30	56	56	56	56	56
3. Dispensaries						
(a) Number	4	3	5	11	11	11
4. Maternity-cum-child Welfare Centres						
(a) Number	2	2	9	9	9	9
(b) Number of beds	..	..	16	16	16	16
5. Special Medical Institutions						
(i) Leprosy	..	..	..	..	..	..
(ii) V. D. Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iii) T. B. Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..
(iv) Mental Institutions	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Number of Registered Medical Practitioners—						
(a) Allopathic	11	12	65	75	78	78
(b) Ayurvedic	..	..	..	2	4	5
(c) Homeopathic	..	..	..	1	2	2
7. Number of Registered Nurses.	..	4	..	9	17	17
8. Number of Registered Midwives.	16	20	..	64	69	80
9. Number of Registered Vaccinators	..	..	14	22	22	22
10. List of Family Planning Clinics						
(a) Government	..	..	9	9	9	..
(b) Non-Government	..	3	..	..	..	..

The District Hospital, Seoni

At the district headquarters, there was a hospital managed by the Municipal Committee. There were at that time 30 beds in this hospital. The State Government took over this hospital under its management on 1st April 1958.

The number of beds in this hospital rose to 56 in 1959-60, out of which 40 were for male and 16 for female patients. This number of beds remained unchanged till 1973-74, although there has been sufficient change and improvement in the equipments and facilities available at the hospital. The old X-ray machine has been supplemented recently in 1973-74 with another doubly powerful X-ray plant. There is also one dental unit in the hospital. An ambulance is there since 1961-62 to provide services to emergency cases.

The following Table shows the particulars as regards the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at the District Hospital, Seoni since 1965.

Table No. XVI-5

Number of Patients Treated

Year	Number of Patients Treated	
	out-door	In-door
1965	1,62,760	3,657
1966	2,30,996	3,252
1967	1,94,464	3,440
1968	1,80,101	3,172
1969	1,63,032	3,694
1970	1,54,816	3,305
1971	1,25,701	2,980
1972	1,35,670	3,043
1973	1,48,270	3,194
1974	1,52,465	3,832

Source—Civil Surgeon, Seoni.

The foundation stone of a new 100 bedded hospital building at Seoni been laid on 14th November 1973.

Police Hospital

There is also a Police Hospital at the District Headquarters. It had 12 beds, all for male patients, in the year 1963-64.

Maternity-cum-Child Welfare Centres

As has been mentioned earlier, there were only two Maternity-cum-Child Welfare Centres in the district during the period 1957-60. Later on, one centre was discontinued and this activity was transferred to the primary health centre. Only the centre at Seoni is still functioning in 1974.

Matru-Grihas

There were, however, 20 *Matru-Grihas* serving the rural population in 1961. They were later on converted gradually into sub-centres of the primary health centres. They, however, are still rendering the services. They were originally meant for apart from those entrusted by the family planning department from time-to-time.

Primary Health Centers

There were in all 8 primary health centres functioning in the district in 1974, most of them since more than a decade. They were opened at the rate of one per Community Development Block. The period of their opening has therefore, been inter-linked with the opening of the respective Block headquarters. Similarly, their sub-centres, usually varying in number from 6 to 10, were also opened one after the other during the Third and Fourth Plan periods.

There were 4 primary health centres in 1957 with 21 beds. Their number rose to 5 in 1959-60 with 24 beds. One Development Block did not have a primary health centre till 1960. Later, till the end of 1962-63, 2 more Blocks were opened, covering the entire area of the District. The remaining public health centres and sub-centres were opened subsequently. The entire net-work of these centres and sub-centres was complete by 1969-70. A short description of the activities of a few primary health centres is given here.

Primary Health Centre, Ghansore

This is the oldest primary health centre in the District. It was established in 1956 when the present district came into existence. It has 6 sub-centres functioning in the interior regions. There are 6 beds in the centre, 3 for male and 3 for female patients.

Over 13,000 outdoor patients received treatment annually at this centre from 1963 to 1970. In 1971 and 1972, this number rose to 15,646 and 17,713 respectively. The maximum and minimum number of indoor patients was respectively 110 in 1965 and 62 in 1972.

This centre is also serving as a Maternity-cum-Child Welfare centre since 1962-63 and as a rural family planning centre, as elsewhere, since 1963-64.

Primary Health Centre, Chhapara

The centre was opened in 1961. It is also functioning as a rural family planning centre since the 1st of January 1966. There are 6 sub-centres serving under this centre in the rural areas. There are 4 general and 2 maternity beds in the centre. The number of indoor patients was maximum (224) in 1963 and minimum (22) in 1970. In 1972 it was 59. The number of outdoor patients has increased from 20,290 in 1961 to 36,067 in 1964. It further came down abruptly to 24,245 in 1965 and rose again to 29,040 in 1966. It then came down steadily to 19,117 in 1969. It again rose gradually and touched the highest figure of 31,704 in 1972.

Primary Health Centre, Dhanora

This centre was opened in 1969. Six sub-centres were later on gradually opened which are functioning in the interior.

The Health Centre at Dhanora treated 13,220, 15,754 and 9,618 patients in 1970, 1971 and 1972 respectively. The vaccination staff of the centre performed 1,621, 2,748 and 2,526 primary vaccinations and 3,724, 5,006 and 3,854 re-vaccinations during this period.

The centre provides all facilities to the indoor patients, except diet. The number of beds available in the centre is 6. The number of indoor patients in 1970, 1971 and 1972 was 1,191, 682 and 377 respectively.

The table given in the Appendix shows a list of primary health centres together with the attached sub-centres.

Government Ayurvedic Dispensaries

The number of ayurvedic dispensaries which was 6 in 1956 went up to 9 in 1961. There were in all 11 such ayurvedic dispensaries functioning in the district in 1974.

Ayurvedic Dispensary, Dhanora

This dispensary is functioning since 1962. Whereas in 1969 it treated 3,365 patients only, in 1970, 1971 and 1972 the number of patients rose to as high as 5,147, 5,198 and 6,248 respectively.

Ayurvedic Dispensary, Begarwani

This small dispensary was established in 1967 and the yearly attendance of outdoor patients is roughly 1,500.

Homeopathic Dispensaries

There is also a government homeopathic dispensary working in the District since the Second plan period.

An overall picture regarding the government hospitals and dispensaries and the facilities extended in the District per lac of population, etc., are given in Appendix.

FAMILY PLANNING

One urban clinic was established at Seoni as early as in 1957-58 with the assistance of the Government of India by a voluntary organisation, known as the Maternity & Child Welfare Association, Seoni. This Clinic was attached subsequently to the Auxiliary Nurse-cum-Midwives Training Centre, a teaching institution, which was in its turn attached to the District Hospital.

Two rural clinics were opened in the following year, taking the total to three. These rural clinics were attached to the Civil Dispensary, Kahanikhas and the Primary Health Centre, Lakhnadon. Later on, the Kahanikhas dispensary was converted into Kahanikhas (Ghansore) Primary Health Centre.

In 1958, in all 6 Vasectomy and 7 tubectomy operations were performed and 118 persons were issued contraceptives. These figures for the ensuing years 1959 and 1960 were 41,487 and 84,739 respectively.¹

By 1963-64, there were in all 8 Family Planning Clinics, 7 of which were attached to the respective 7 Primary Health Centres, and one to the District Hospital mentioned earlier. All these rural and urban clinics have been functioning satisfactorily during the past decade.

Apart from these, there is one Vasectomy and Loop Insertion Mobile Unit working under the auspices of the District Family Planning Bureau since 1967-68. The Primary Health Centre, Dhanora, opened in 1969-70, also started a rural Family Planning Clinic in 1970-71. Thus, the entire District was covered by

1. District Census Hand Book, 1961 p. 296.

them. The overall progress of the district in the field of family planning for the last few years has been tabulated below :—

Table No. XVI-6
Progress of Family Planning (1971-74)

S. No.	Years	Vesctomy Operations	Tubec-tomy Operations	Condom-Distri-bution	Jelly Distri-bution	Foam Tablets Distri-bution	Diaph-ragm Dis-tribution	Loop
1.	1971-72	882	25	94,680	21	9,610	..	1,104
2.	1972-73	5,991	68	96,681	24	796	..	628
3.	1973-74	155	15	65,418	29	1,237	..	658
4.	1974-75	433	75	60,350	175	340	..	735

Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes

The total number of registered allopathic practitioners was 11 in 1957 which rose to 12 in 1960. The number of registered midwives was 16 in 1957-58 and it rose to 20 in 1959-60. The number of registered nurses remained stationary at 4 during 1958-60 period.

In the 1961 Census Report, in all 106 persons were returned in the District in the occupational group "physicians, surgeons and dentists" (leaving aside 121 Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors).

Considering physicians and surgeons in allopathy alone, who are generally technically qualified (in case of ayurvedic and homeopathic systems of treatment self taught persons who do not hold certificates from recognized institutions also practise) and who seem to matter most in the public mind, it is reported that there were 41 physicians and surgeons in allopathy, 27 of whom were in rural areas and 14 in the urban.

Singhi-walas

There was also a curious class of travelling practitioners. Singhiwalas in the beginning of this century. Their main business was cupping with the horn, but they treated diseases in general and even carried out cataract operations in a rough fashion to the indignation of the civil surgeon. Though their number has sufficiently reduced during these seven decades they are resorted to by villagers even now, especially in the interiors.

There was one physician or surgeon for 4, 941 persons (one for 7,959 persons in rural areas and one for 757 persons in urban areas), in the District. The urban areas are thus better served by medical services.

Considered from the point of view of allopathy alone, 12,774 persons had one doctor in 1961 (18,277 persons in rural areas and 2,163 persons in urban areas).

The uneven or even lopsided distribution of allopathic medical help over rural and urban areas of the District seems to follow from the fact that roughly one-third of the allopathic doctors were concentrated in urban areas which contained only 5.8% of the District's population. In other words, a population which had one doctor in rural areas, had roughly 9 such doctors in urban areas.

Cumulative Public Health Picture

Seoni District's rural population, however, seems to be better served by allopathic medical help than the rural population of the State as a whole because in the case of the latter there was one allopathic physician for 41,580 persons of the rural population. In case of urban population, however, Seoni District lagged much behind the State which had one physician for every 1,822 persons in rural areas, as against Seoni's 2,163 persons per physician.

The number of various kinds of health technicians has been tabulated below :

Table No. XVI-7
Number of Physicians (1961)

S. No.	Type of Physicians	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total
1.	Allopathic	14	27	41
2.	Ayurvedic	22	25	47
3.	Homeopathy	..	5	5
4.	Unspecified (i.e., yunani, etc.)	4	9	13
5.	Nurses	18	66	84
6.	Midwives and Health Visitors	30	7	37
Total		88	139	227

Training of Nurses

The training of nursing and para-medical personnel is an important aspect of health services. There is an Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) Training Centre, imparting training at Seoni since 1960-61. The number of seats sanctioned to the centre is 20 and it is attached to the District hospital.

In 1961, there was also a Dai's Training Centre in the District, which also trained a few batches as per the local requirement.

Indian Medical Association, Branch Seoni

The Association is functioning in the District since its formation in 1956. The branch is affiliated to the Indian Medical Association, Central Branch, New Delhi. The branch holds clinical meetings in the District Hospital every month. It started the activities of the Red Cross Society like Polio Vaccine Programme, etc., in 1972-73.

There are about 25 members who are licentiate graduates and post-graduates in modern allopathic medicines.

Fee for membership is Rs.13.50 p. for the State and Central share and Rs.3.00 for the local branch share. The membership is, however governed by the rules and regulations framed by the Indian Medical Association from time to time.

Indian Red Cross Society

A branch of Indian Red Cross Society has been established in the District very recently at the District Headquarters, with the Collector as the honorary Chairman and the Civil Surgeon as the honorary Secretary. Funds are being collected for its efficient functioning and membership campaign is going on smoothly. The society has started working towards the establishment of a blood bank at Seoni.

Sanitation

Seoni is the only urban area in the District where a Municipal council looks after the affairs of sanitation in co-ordination with the medical and public health department's activities. In Block headquarters and in the rural areas under their jurisdiction, the responsibility of sanitation is shared by the Panchayats in co-ordination with the activities of the primary health centre's and sub-centre's staff.

The activities of the health staff cover a wide range of items which improve the sanitary conditions, e.g. construction of new-wells, repairing of existing wells, closing of step-wells, construction of surface drainage, latrines, urinals, soakage pits, cattle sheds, installation of smokeless *Chulhas* and hand-pumps, etc.

In Dhanora Block, 161 new wells were constructed and 3 repaired till 1973. Two public urinals were also constructed during the same period. In Ghansore Block, the above figures are respectively 76, 37 and 9, and in Chhapara Block, 66, 37 and 69. There has been insignificant progress during the period 1965 to 1972 on account of paucity of funds.

In Chhapara Block, 322 soakage pits, 26 latrines and 41 cattle-sheds were constructed. The corresponding progress in Ghansore Block is 13, 11 and nil, respectively.

The number of smokeless *chulhas* installed in Chhapara and Ghansore Blocks is 48 and 15, respectively.

In Ghansore Block, 2 step-wells were closed and 4 hand pumps were installed. In Chhapara Block, 5 hand pumps were installed.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Prohibition

The use of intoxicating drinks and drugs in this area dates back to ancient times. There is sufficient evidence indicating that their consumption was looked upon with disapproval by Hindu scriptures and society. The 'higher classes', were placed under severe penalties both in the present life and the next for consuming liquor. By and large, the people were sober and the use of liquor and drugs was confined generally to the lowest strata or 'residuum' of society. In medieval times, the habit of drinking developed which may be attributed in part to the example set by kings and their courtiers.

Before the advent of British rule there was no system of excise taxation. Various methods of controlling the drink traffic were tried at different times with varying degrees of success. Such attempts, however, were few and far between. At any rate, before the advent of the British rule there seems to have been no attempts on the part of government to derive any material revenue from the traffic in drink and drugs. The explanation probably lies in the fact that those who consumed liquor and drugs were a small minority and the use of intoxicants was not considered a legitimate source of revenue. The year 1790 saw the enactment of excise laws and framing of excise rules in British India in consonance with the policy of maximum revenue with the minimum of consumption. The outstill system was prevalent over the greater part of the country during early years of British rule.¹ It included all systems prior in order of development to the levy of a still head duty. The stages of development were farming of large areas to individual bidders for excise purposes, farming the small areas, sale of right to distil and sell at particular places and lastly sale of a similar right subject to control of means and times for distilling. One of the terms of reference to the Indian Excise Committee (1905-06) was to enquire to what extent the out still system could be replaced by an efficient distillery system. Taxation of manufacture of liquor was not quite feasible under the old outstill system; on the other hand, it was comparatively easy under distillery system. The committee noted that the abolition of the outstill system was already in rapid progress. One direct result of the introduction of the distillery system which was gradually developed and improved over a period of about half a century was that it led to the establishment of large number of private distilleries. The manufacture of country spirits and beers developed into a regular industry. It was run like any other industry for the sake of profits. The government through the system of taxation, i.e., still-head duty and vend fees, acquired an interest in production and sale of country spirits which contributed nearly half of the total excise revenue.

1. Report of the Prohibition Inquiry Committee, 1954-55, P. 5

In Seoni District the systems in vogue for the supply of country liquor in 1905-06 were the *sadar* distillery system and the out still system. There was one *sadar* distillery at the district headquarters which served the bulk of Seoni tahsil, while the rest of the district was supplied by 70 outstills. From the year 1905-07 the new contract distillery system was introduced, but some of the hilly tracts with poor communications were still supplied by 22 outstills. In proportion to its area and population the number of shops for the sale of country liquor in the District was almost the largest in Province but it has been considerably decreased under the new arrangement. The excise revenue of the District in 1904-05 amounting to Rs.46,000 was the lowest but four in the Province, the incidence per head of population being 2 annas 3 pies as against the Provincial figure of 3 annas 7 pies. *Tari* and *Pachwai* were not consumed in the District and the demand for foreign liquor was very small.

The revenue from opium and *Ganja* during the year 1904-05 was Rs.57,000, the incidence per head of population being two annas nine pies as against the provincial figure of two annas and one pie. In 1904-05 there were 38 permanent Opium and 40 *Ganja* shops in the District².

In 1921, the government in Central Provinces and Berar adopted prohibition as the "ultimate goal of its Excise policy", but it refrained from defining any specific date of its attainment. The new policy drifted away from temperance to total abstinence and directed its restrictive measures to the extinction of even moderate drinking. Reviewing the policy of prohibition, the committee in 1935 made it clear that in the zone comprising the aboriginal areas Prohibition must remain a distant ideal and that it would be a grave error to experiment with any preconceived ideas of total prohibition in those tracts.

The aforesaid committee report was, however, shelved and in 1938 Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act was passed. The Government policy exempted Europeans, members of armed forces and the aborigines³, from the purview of the Prohibition Act. As such, the Act was never extended to Seoni District. Thus in case of liquor *ganja* and *Bhang*, the district has always remained "Wet". The consumption of *ganja* and *bhag* is restricted through licences, whereas the opium consumption in general stood prohibited since 1st April 1955. *Charas* consumption, which is strictly prohibited in all other districts of Madhya Pradesh is also prohibited in Seoni.

Since various measures to restrict or prohibit the use of liquor met with little success all over the state the government of Madhya Pradesh after considerable deliberations shelved the idea of total prohibition. An Ordinance No.9 of 1967, the Madhya Pradesh Madya Nisedha Vidhi Nirasan Adhyadesh was promulgated to repeal the Prohibition Act of 1938, and the ordinance came into force with effect from 1st September 1967.

1. *Seoni District Gazetteer*, 1907, p. 155.

2. *ibid.* p. 156.

3. Report of M. P. Prohibition Inquiry Committee.

Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes

According to the Census of 1961, Seoni District contained a Scheduled Caste population of 22,499 persons and a Scheduled Tribes population of 2,01,061 persons. Thus the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes formed 4.2 and 38.4 per cent of the total population of the district, respectively. It may be mentioned that only nine of the Castes and fourteen of the Tribes of the district were Scheduled by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order, 1956 as corrected in 1957. These castes and tribes are concentrated in the rural areas of the District to the extent of 93.5 and 98.7 per cent of the population, respectively. Lakhnadon tahsil has 4.8 per cent of its population in Scheduled Castes, while Seoni tahsil has only 4 per cent. Mahar or Mehra is the most numerous Scheduled Caste in the district, making 53.3 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population. Chamar and synonymous castes make the second largest Scheduled Caste, contributing 31.4 per cent to the district population. Basor and synonymous castes account for 9.3 per cent of the population of Scheduled Castes in the District. These three Scheduled Caste together account for 9.4 per cent of the Scheduled Caste population of District. Amongst the numerous castes are Bhangi or Mehtar (2.9 per cent) Kori (1.5 per cent) and Khatik (0.5 per cent). Bahana and Mang etc., castes have also been returned, but their population is insignificantly small.

The entire northern Lakhnadon tahsil has more than half (52.5 per cent) of its population belonging to Scheduled Tribes, whereas in Southern Seoni tahsil the proportion sinks to 30.2 per cent.

The Gond and Pradhan and synonymous castes, together making 98.7 per cent of the total scheduled tribe population.

Efforts to ameliorate the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were started in post. Independence period. Details of facilities given to them in the sphere of education have already been described in the chapter on Education and Culture of this volume. Not only educationally, but economically, socially and culturally also these castes and tribes are backward.

The economic condition of the Scheduled Castes of the District can be studied from the figures provided by the census of 1961, given below.

Table No. XVII-1

Category	Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. All Scheduled Castes Population.	20,954	10,575	10,349	1,455	766	689
2. Workers ..	12,201	6,416	5,785	641	388	253
3. Non-Workers ..	8,753	4,159	4,594	814	378	436

SEONI

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. Cultivators ..	5,485	2,784	2,701	5	4	1
5. Agricultural Labourer	3,418	1,298	2,120	74	5	89
6. In Mining and Quarrying.	188	100	18	3	3	0
7. In Household Industry	2,144	1,508	636	121	77	44
8. In Manufacturing other than Household Industry.	68	38	30	66	63	3
9. In Construction ..	24	19	5	15	11	4
10. In Trade and Commerce	62	44	18	58	43	15
11. In Transport etc. ..	32	31	1	33	31	2
12. In Other Services ..	850	594	256	275	150	125
13. In Tanning etc. ..	25	12	13	68	66	2
14. In Scavenging ..	95	37	58	134	69	65

Source:- Census, 1961

The figures given above show that most of the Scheduled Caste people lived in rural area of the District. Among them about 61 per cent and 39 per cent were workers and non-workers, respectively in rural areas. Proportion of non-workers among them was higher in rural area.

As regards the economic condition of the Scheduled Tribes of the District in 1961, the details are given below :—

Table No. XVII-2

Category	Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. All Scheduled Tribes Population	200,152	98,534	10,168	909	488	421
7. Workers ..	128,826	64,586	64,240	392	252	140
3. Non-Workers	71,326	33,948	37,378	517	236	281
4. Cultivators ..	93,403	47,374	46,029	9	7	2
5. Agricultural Labourers	29,773	13,597	16,176	11	6	5
6. In Mining and Quarrying	1,867	1,549	318	20	15	5
7. In Household Industry	310	234	76	5	5	

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

237

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. In Manufacturing other than Household Industry.	108	46	62	43	34	9
9. In construction	150	97	53	35	19	16
10. In Trade and Commerce.	91	50	41	45	24	21
11. In Transport, etc. ..	101	94	7	35	35	
12. In other Services. ..	2,023	1,545	1,478	189	107	83

Source : Census, 1961.

According to the Census of 1971 the population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes formed about 6.8 (45,291) and 37.5 per cent (2,50,577) of the total population of the District. The per centage of the former was found increased in the decade (1962-71) while that of latter was found decreased.

Agriculture is the main stay of the economy of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Majority of these workers were found engaged in cultivation and worked as agricultural labourers. It had been a general trend in the past that the aboriginals of the state gradually lost proprietary lands in favour of traders and agriculturists. Hence to provide legislative security of land tenure to the Scheduled Tribes, the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1959 placed restrictions on alienation of their holdings to persons other than those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

With a view to improving the condition of these Castes and Tribes, still more, in plan periods the Government continued its schemes of allotment of lands to landless persons among them, industrial training, Co-operative Societies, etc. Besides, some Harijan families were granted agricultural subsidy loan. For Scheduled Tribes, the restriction continued with regard to transfer of land to persons, who do not belong to the Scheduled Tribes.

The following table gives the details of Agricultural subsidy distributed among these classes:—

Table No. XVII-3

Plan Period	Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes		Other Backward classes	
	No. of Persons	Amount in Rs.	No. of Persons	Amount in Rs.	No. of Persons	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Second Five Year Plan.	9	1262.50	2	324.0	40	8,121.00
Third Five Year Plan.	507	1,22,679.05	1,584	4,85,974.18	1,234	3,10,571.25
Fourth Five Year Plan.	469	1,19,213.75	1,712	9,27,801.63	1,130	4,71,218.78

Steps were taken during plan periods for the ameliorating the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The schemes included award of scholarships and opening of schools and hostels also. Apart from these, for improving the cattle wealth, pedigree bulls were also distributed and multipurpose co-operative societies were opened. During the First and Second Plan period, a large quantity of improved seeds and artificial fertilizers were distributed among them.

In order to formulate the guide-lines for speedy socio-economic development of these classes, the State Government has constituted the Tribal Advisory Council. The Collector looks after the control and advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes in Seoni District. To assist him in the Tribal and Harijan welfare schemes an officer of the rank of District Organiser has been posted in the District. The development schemes for these classes are mainly concentrated in Tribal Development Blocks. In each Block, one Development Assistant and one Circle Organiser have been posted, who assist the District administration in the execution of the Departmental schemes.

Protective Legislations

One of the worst forms of exploitation to which tribals were exposed has been through traditional money-lending. This in turn leads to up-rooting the Tribals from their land and reducing them to serfdom. The incidence of indebtedness among the tribals has been known to be very high. To save the tribals from the clutches of money-lenders, the Debt Relief Regulation was enforced in the Scheduled areas of the State from August 15, 1963. With a view to making these regulations more effective, by incorporating certain changes, the Relief Regulation Act, 1967, for Scheduled Tribes was enacted and enforced in the

Legal Aid

For providing economic relief to the *Adivasis* and *Harijans* the Government introduced various measures. One of them is to give them legal aid.

Removal of Disabilities

To remove the social disabilities, Government made applicable in the year 1955, the untouchability (Offence) Act, 1955. The Act declared observance of untouchability at public places an offence. As elsewhere, the success of this social legislation in the District cannot be ascertained merely on the basis of number of offences registered with the Police Department. Due to the fast changing village scene, for which quick modes of conveyance, education, democratic functioning of various institutions and Government are responsible, much laxity in the outlook of general masses towards their fellow beings was noticed. Gradually the age old practice of untouchability is dying out.

Co-operative Societies

To minimise the exploitation of tribals at the hands of non-tribal traders, the Government have been striving to organise co-operative societies, both for

purchasing the produce of the tribals and also for selling consumer goods to them. For the purpose an Apex Society was established at the State level to promote the development of co-operatives among tribals. The Apex Society provides finance, technical knowledge, and arranges to market the produce collected by the primary societies. During the First Plan period there were only 17 co-operative societies functioning in Seoni District. Their number increased to 78 in Second Five Year Plan period and to 89 in Fourth Five Year Plan period.

In order to give adequate opportunity to these classes to join the Government service the Government have reserved 15 per cent of post for Tribes in Class I and II services. The representation in Class III and IV services is to the extent of 16 and 20 per cent, respectively, for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Other facilities such as relaxation in normal age limit for entry into the Government services, payment of traveling allowance for journey preformed in connection with interview, etc. exemption from or reduction in payment of application and examination fees are also given to the candidates of these classes. In seeking employment, the District Employment Office is striving to extend an help to them.

A number of welfare schemes for these classes were also taken by the civil bodies of the District. Depending upon their capacity, they granted various allowances and improved their pay scales and service conditions.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Madhya Pradesh Public Trusts Act, 1951 governs the management of the trusts in the District. Collector is the Registrar of Public Trusts. All the Trusts are required to get them selves registered with the Registrar, who looks after their proper management and functioning of these institutions in the District. All the public trust committees prepare their annual budgets and send them for approval of the Registrar. The accounts of these institutions are subject to audit and inspection by the Local Fund and Audit Department, but generally the accounts are checked and certified by the local auditors, who are deputed and authorised by the Registrar.

In the year 1974, there were 93 public trusts in Seoni District. The details of these trusts are given below :—

Table No. XVII
Public Trusts

Name of Tahsil	Educational	Medical	Running of Dharmshala	Other Social Services	Purely Religious	Purely Religious & Partly charitable	Total
1. Seoni ..	5	2	1	3	69	..	80
2. Lakhnadon	1	1	..	..	10	1	13
Total	6	3	1	3	79	1	93

The details of these trusts are given in the Appendix.—

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation

The Indian Councils Act, 1901 came into operation in the Central Province and Berar in 1909. Then Seoni was one of the districts of that Province and as such it formed a part of the non-territorial constituencies of the Province.

The Constituency of District Councils and Municipalities selected their delegates to vote for the election of an additional member to the Legislative Council of the Governor-General. Seoni District Council and Seoni Municipality each selected its one delegate for voting purposes. For the election of another additional member representing Landholders of the Province, electorates of Landholders selected one land-holder of this District for voting in the election. These two representatives of the Province represented the Province in the Council.

The right to elect an additional member of the Council hitherto enjoyed by the District Councils and Municipalities was transferred to the non-official members of the Legislative Council of Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces and Berar. This latter council was formed in 1914-15. The 'Landholder' constituency remained undisturbed.

The Government of India Act, 1919 created two Central Legislatures, viz, the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State. For the election of one member to the latter the Province formed one constituency which elected the member. For the election of five members to the Legislative Assembly the Province was delimited into four constituencies and three of them included Seoni District. These three were two-member Central Provinces Hindi Division (non-Muhammedan), Central Provinces (Muhammedan) and Central Provinces Land-holders.

This position remained much the same till 1951 in spite of passing of the Government of India Act, 1935 as the Federal Part of the scheme under the Act never came into operation.

Elections to Lok Sabha 1951-52

The Republic Constitution of India in 1950 necessitated the delimitation of constituencies for the elections of members to Lok Sabha. At the time of the First General Elections to Lok Sabha in 1951-52 Seoni formed a sub-division of Chhindwara District and was included partly in Chhindwara and partly in Mandla-Jabalpur South (Two-member) constituencies. The three members

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

returned from these constituencies represented this District also in Lok Sabha. Details of these constituencies are as follows :—

Table No. XVIII-1
Lok Sabha Elections 1951-52

Name of Constituency	Total No. of Voters	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col 3 to 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Chhindwara	3,81,555	1,31,682	34.5
2. Mandla-Jabalpur (South)	6,86,330	5,93,342	43.0

One seat of the Two-member constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

Lok Sabha, 1957

The Delimitation of Lok Sabha Constituencies made in 1956 included this District in Two-member Chhindwara and Mandla Constituencies. The latter constituency and one seat of the former constituency were reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. In the Second General Lok Sabha Elections of 1957, Mandla Constituency had 3,66,868 voters and the election was unanimous. In the two-member Chhindwara Constituency, of the 7,65,324 voters, 5,09,047 votes were polled giving a percentage of 33.26.

Lok Sabha, 1962

Due to Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act of 1961 delimitation of constituencies was made for the Third General Elections to Lok Sabha held in 1962. Seoni District was then within Seoni and Mandla Constituencies and both these were reserved Scheduled Tribes constituencies. Details of elections are tabulated below :—

Table No. XVIII-2
Lok Sabha Election, 1962

Name of constituency.	Total No. of Voter	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Seoni	4,17,744	1,51,731	36.3
Mandla	4,11,583	1,14,763	27.8

Lok Sabha, 1967 and 1971

In the Fourth General Elections of 1967 and the Fifth or Mid-term Elections of 1971 to Lok Sabha the District was covered by Chhindwara and Jabalpur

Lok Sabha Constituencies (both General). Details of these two elections are given below :—

Table No. XVIII—3
Lok Sabha Elections 1967 and 1971

Year of Election, etc.	Constituencies	
	Chhindwara	Jabalpur
(1)	(2)	(3)
1967		
1. No. of Voters	4,92,452	4,87,780
2. No. of Valid Votes Polled	1,92,699	2,71,608
3. Percentage 1971	39.1	55.7
1. No. of Voters	5,18,740	5,18,961
2. No. of Valid Votes Polled	1,97,209	1,98,742
3. Percentage	38.1	38.2

Representation in State Legislature

The provisions of Indian Councils Acts 1861, 1892 and 1909 were made applicable to the Central Provinces in 1913 and the Legislative Council of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces was formed in 1914. The Governor-General in Council issued Regulations for the elections and nominations of members to this Council. Of the total number of 25 Councillors 10 were elected whole 15 were nominated. The latter category included 11 official and only 4 non-officials members.

Constituencies in 1914

Of the elected members 3 were elected by the municipalities of the Province, 2 by the District Councils, 2 by the Land-holders and one each by these institutions in Berar. Members of Seoni Municipality and Seoni District Council and Land-holders of the District along with their counter-parts in Jabalpur and Narmada Division exercised their right of electing their respective representatives to the Council which first met in 1914. The same representation pattern existed in the election to the Council held in 1917.

Governor's Council 1920 to 1937

Under the Government of India Act of 1919 the Central Provinces and Berar was declared to be the Governor's Province. The provisions of the Act and the Central Provinces Legislative Council Rules came into force in 1920. This created a new reformed Legislative Council of the Province consisting of 53 elected (including 17 nominated as a result of elections held in Berar) and nominated members. Of the latter category 7 were officials and 8 non-official both nominated by the Governor. Two-ex-officio members of Executive Council of Governor were also included in the Council. For the elections of members, Seoni District was included in Jabalpur Division Non-Muhammadan Urban, Seoni District Non-Muhammadan Rural, Jabalpur Division Muhammadan Rural

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

and Jabalpur and Narmada Divisions Landholders constituencies. Thus, the District was represented by 5 members in the Governor's Legislative Council. The Central Provinces and Berar Mining Association and Central Province Commerce and Industry were the non-territorial elective constituencies. This Council worked till 1923. In 1923 Nagpur University (non-territorial) constituency was created. In the second Council this constituency elected its representative and this raised the number of elected members in the Council which lasted till 1926. Mandla district was enfranchised in 1926 and this again raised the number of elected members of the Council. The third Council was elected in 1927 and dissolved in 1930. By the end of 1930 fourth Council was elected. It continued enjoying extensions till March 1937. Representation of the District remained undisturbed till 1937.

Legislative Assembly 1937

This Legislative Council was abolished and the province was declared to be entitled to have its Legislative Assembly under the Government of India Act of 1935. Elections to this Assembly were held in 1937.

All the 112 seats of the Assembly were filled by elections held in 92 constituencies. Of the 112 constituencies, 84 were General (10 urban + 74 rural), 14 Muhammadan (2 urban + 12 rural), 3 women, 1 Backward Tribes, 2 Commerce, 3 Landholders, 2 Labour, 1 European, 1 Anglo-Indian and 1 University. The constituencies which included parts of Seoni District are named below along with their class and number of electors in them in bracket.

(1) Jabalpur-Sagar-Seoni (urban 16,206), (2) Seoni (rural-21, 930) (3) Amarwara-Lakhnadon (rural-28,922) (4) Hoshangabad-Chhindwara-Betul (Muhammadan-6,016), (5) Bhandara-Balaghat-Seoni (Muhammadan-3,452) (6) Backward Tribes (16,357), (7) Central Provinces Northern Landholder (230). Beside these, non-territorial constituencies like University (358), European (546), Anglo-Indian (1,444) and Central Provinces Commerce (254) also covered the District.

Vidhan Sabha

First Elections 1951-52

After Independence the First General Elections to the newly constituted Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly were held in 1951-52. The district was then divided into four Legislative Assembly constituencies, one of which Lakhnadon was a Two-member constituency. One seat of this latter constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. Details of these elections are given below :—

Table No. XVIII—4
Vidhan Sabha Elections 1951-52

Name of Constituency	Total No. of Voters	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2
1	2	3	4
1. Lakhnadon	89,100	55,361	31.00
2. Kanhiwara	54,767	17,598	32.00
3. Barghat	46,800	13,981	32.00
4. Seoni	44,724	17,057	39.00

These five members represented the District in Vidhan Sabha. Subsequently, by-election was held in Lakhnadon constituency for the reserved seat. Of the total 39,100 votes, valid votes polled were 11,571, i.e., about 29.6.

Second and Third Elections

For the Second (1957) and again for the Third General Elections (1962) certain changes in names and extent of constituencies were made but the number of members continued to be five. For the elections of 1957 the former Two-member Lakhnadon constituency was declared to be a single-member constituency reserved for the Scheduled tribes. A new Two-member Bhoma constituency was created abolishing the former single-member Kanhiwara constituency. One seat of Bhoma constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. As a result of Two-member Constituencies (Abolition) Act of 1961 the former Two-member Bhoma constituency was split up into two constituencies, viz., Bhoma and Chhapara, and the latter was declared to be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. Details of these two elections are tabulated below:—

Table No. XVIII—5
Vidhan Sabha Elections 1957 and 1962

Name of Constituency	Total No. of Voters	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to Col. 2
1	2	3	4
Lakhnadon:			
1957	48,962	13,410	27.4
1962	57,438	UNCONTESTED	
Barghat:			
1957	44,316	12,590	28.4
1962	48,688	19,931	40.9
Seoni:			
1957	44,886	16,884	37.6
1962	52,917	23,481	44.3
Bhoma			
1957	89,681	51,145	28.5
1962	48,752	18,871	38.5
Chhapara			
1962	49,696	12,394	24.8

Fourth and Fifth Elections

Changes in the name and extent of some constituencies were again made in 1964 for the Fourth General Elections to Vidhan Sabha held in 1967. In place of Bhoma a new Keolari Constituency was created. There was no change

in them in 1972 when Fifth General Elections were held. Details of these two elections are shown below:—

Table No. XVIII—6
Vidhan Sabha Elections 1967 and 1972

Names of Constituency	Total No. of Voters	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to Col. 2
1	2	3	4
Lakhnadon			
1967	49,749	20,687	41.5
1972	57,699	23,339	40.4
Keolari			
1967	59,116	27,537	46.5
1972	64,522	26,931	41.7
Barghat			
1967	67,432	28,905	42.8
1972	72,351	40,896	55.9
Seoni			
1967	62,525	24,191	38.5
1972	70,495	29,837	42.3
Chhapara			
1967	53,632	17,777	33.16
1972	61,224	23,096	37.71

Thus, from 1951-52 to 1972 five members, including two of the Scheduled Tribes, represented Seoni District in the Vidhan Sabha of Madhya Pradesh.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress, the oldest and the most powerful political party contested all the five Lok Sabha General Elections held during the period of about two decades (1951-52 to 1971) from all the constituencies which covered Seoni District from time to time. The party throughout this period came out successful by capturing all the seats in those constituencies.

In the First General Elections of 1951-52 the Congress nominees secured 66.4 per cent votes in Two-member Mandla-Jabalpur-South Constituency and 53.15 per cent votes in Chhindwara Constituency, out of the total valid votes polled in those constituencies. In the former the Congress nominee defeated the two Independent rivals while in the latter there were four more rivals, 3 of other political parties and one Independent.

In the Second General Elections of 1957 the Congress nominee in Mandla Lok Sabha Constituency was unanimously declared successful. In Two-member Chhindwara Lok Sabha Constituency both the member of the Party were successful as they won about 50.8 per cent of the total valid votes polled and defeated six rivals, four Independents and two belonging to Praja Socialist party.

In 1962 the Congress nominee defeated his two rivals in Seoni Lok Sabha Constituency by securing 42.1 per cent of the valid votes. Of the two rivals one was Praja Socialist and the other was an Independent. In Mandla Constituency in a four-cornered fight the Congress candidate received 41.6 per cent valid votes and this led him to success. Of the three rivals one was Praja Socialist, one was of Ram Rajya Parishad and the third was an Independent.

In the Fourth General Elections to Lok Sabha, held in 1967 the Congress nominees in Chhindwara and Jabalpur Lok Sabha Constituencies secured 44 and 51.3 per cent of total valid votes and succeeded in defeating their six and five rivals, respectively. In the former, four were Independent while of the rest two, one each belonged to Praja Socialist and Jansangh parties.

Before the Fifth General Elections of 1971, the Congress Party was divided into two parties. In spite of this the Congress Party in power captured both Lok Sabha seats of Chhindwara and Jabalpur Constituencies in which its candidates secured 52.6 and 71.2 per cent of the total valid votes. In the former, two, one each of Jansangh, Forward Block and in the latter, three, one each of Jansangh and Praja Socialist and one independent were the rivals to oppose Congress nominees.

Congress in Legislative Assembly, 1937

The Congress Party contested Elections to Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly held in 1937 from Jabalpur-Sagar-Seoni General Urban Constituency, Seoni (Rural) and Amarwara-Lakhnadon General Rural, Central Provinces Northern Landholders and Backward Tribes Constituencies and succeeded in winning all but one seat. It received valid votes in the following order:—

97.1 per cent in Jabalpur-Sagar-Seoni (General Urban).

82.4 per cent in Seoni (Rural).

60.2 per cent in Amarwara-Lakhnadon (General Rural).

46.1 per cent in Central Provinces Northern Land-holders. It lost the seat in Backward Tribes constituency.

In Vidhan Sabha 1951-52

For the First General Elections to Vidhan Sabha the Congress fielded its nominees in all the four constituencies of the District including one of Two member. All these five candidates were successful. The voting pattern in their case was in the following order:—

Table No. XVIII-7
Congress in Vidhan Sabha 1951-52

Name of Constituency	Valid Votes			No. of Contestants
	In Constituency	To Congress	To next Rival	
1. Seoni	17,057	13,172	1,892	4
2. Barghat	13,981	7,735	4,361	5
3. Kanhiwara	17,598	7,749	4,857	7
4. Lakhnadon (Two-member)	55,361	18,627	7,877	5
		14,442		
Bye-Election	11,571	7,358	4,123	2

In the Second General Elections of 1957 also the Congress succeeded in retaining all the five seats of the District in Vidhan Sabha. Its candidates received votes in following order (The first figure in brackets against each shows the number of votes received by his next rival while the second one stands for the number of contestants).

Lakhnadon 9,432 (3,978:2) Two-member Bhoma 13,454 (9,289:4) 14,387 (3,652:2), Barghat 5,997 (4,473:4), Seoni 9,038 (4,207:3).

The Congress though contested all the five Vidhan Sabha seats in Seoni District during the 1962 elections it lost three of them. It retained Lakhnadon seat for which there was no contest. In Chhapara constituency the voting was as given below. 5,723 (4,480:3). Voting in constituencies lost by the Congress was as follows:—

Bhoma 6,170 (8,637:5), Barghat 4,536 (10,706:5), Seoni 9,417 (10,669:3).

During the General Elections of 1967 the Congress party improved its position in Seoni District. It retained its former seats and recovered the three seats lost to opponents in 1962. But its position was slightly changed in 1972 when it retained four seats losing Barghat seat. Details are given below:—

Table No. XVIII-8
Congress in Vidhan Sabha 1967 and 1972

Name of Constituency	Valid Votes			No. of Contestants
	In constituency	To Congress	To next Rival	
1. Lakhanadon 1967	20,687	13,852	4,431	3
1972	23,339	17,354	3,766	3
2. Chhapara 1967	17,777	12,139	2,965	5
1972	21,139	10,945	8,185	5
3. Keolari 1967	27,537	13,609	8,319	3
1973	26,931	16,908	6,440	4
4. Barghat 1967	28,905	12,080	11,111	4
1972	40,896	17,407	18,989	4
5. Seoni 1967	24,191	11,258	6,744	4
1972	29,837	15,706	11,596	4

Socialist Party

In the First General Elections to Lok Sabha held in 1951-52 the Socialist Party unsuccessfully contested two seats of Two-member Mandla-Jabalpur South Lok Sabha Constituency. Its nominees received 78,248 and 52,073 valid votes as against 2,12,914 and 1,81,123 obtained by the successful nominees of the Congress.

The Party was not also successful in elections to Vidhan Sabha held in 1951-52. It contested four out of five Vidhan Sabha seats of the District. It received 1,892 and 1,081 valid votes in Seoni and Barghat constituencies and 394 and 6,604 in Kanhiwara and Lakhnadon (General) constituencies, respectively. The Party was subsequently integrated with the Praja Socialist Party.

248

SEONI

Praja Socialist Party

Praja Socialist Party contested Lok Sabha elections held in the years from 1957 to 1971. In 1957 it contested both the seats of Two-member Chhindwara Lok Sabha Constituency and lost them. Its candidates could secure 66,045 and 51,729 (Reserved) valid votes in contrast with 1,36,931 and 1,21,652 (Reserved) bagged by the successful nominees of the Congress.

In 1962 Seoni and Mandla (Reserved) Lok Sabha seats were contested by Praja Socialists but they were defeated by the Congress nominees. In the former constituency the Party nominee could get 47,244 valid votes as against 63,909 received by the victor. In Mandla Constituency its candidate gained 26,161 while the successful candidate got 47,789 valid votes.

The party did not participate in Lok Sabha elections in 1967. It however, contested Jabalpur Lok Sabha seat in 1971 but lost it obtaining only 7,550 valid votes. The successful Congress nominee here received 1,39,370 valid votes.

In Vidhan Sabha elections the Party first participated in the bye-election held after 1952 for the reserved seat of Two-member Lakhnadon Constituency. Its candidate was defeated by the Congress nominee in a straight fight. He got 4,123 valid votes while the latter received 7,358.

The Party contested four of the five Vidhan Sabha seats allotted to the District during the Second Vidhan Sabha Elections in 1957 and lost them. In the reserved Lakhnadon Constituency in a straight fight against Congress nominee the Party candidate received 3,978 valid votes when the latter got 9,432. Of the two seats in Bhoma Constituency the Party nominee fought for the general seat. He obtained 9,289 valid votes and lost it. The victor received 13,454 valid votes here. In Barghat and Seoni Constituencies the Party could secure 4,473 and 4,207 valid votes while the successful party here obtained 5,997 and 9,038, respectively. In 1962 the Party contested only one Vidhan Sabha seat of the District and it succeeded in wresting that seat of Barghat Constituency from Congress. The Party secured 10,706 valid votes while the Congress got 4,536 valid votes.

The Praja Socialist Party contested Chhapara (Reserved) and Barghat Vidhan Sabha seats in 1967 and lost them to Congress nominees. In the former it received only 883 valid votes as against 12,139 obtained by the Congress nominee. In Barghat Constituency its candidate received 11,111 valid votes but the successful candidate got 12,080. In 1972 the Party did not participate in Vidhan Sabha Elections.

Ram Rajya Parishad

The Parishad contested General seat of Two-member Mandla-Jabalpur South Lok Sabha Constituency in 1951-52 and lost it by getting 23,829 valid votes. The Party was not in the field of Lok Sabha Elections held in 1957. It returned to the field in 1962 when it contested Mandla (Reserved) Lok Sabha

seat. In a four-cornered fight it lost the seat to Congress. The Party got 26,962 valid votes in contrast with 47,789 secured by the latter. The Party did not participate in 1967 and 1971 Lok Sabha elections.

The Parishad contested Seoni and Kanhiwara Vidhan Sabha seats in 1951-52 and lost both of them as its nominees could get only 1,070 and 990 valid votes, respectively. In 1957 it again contested seat of Seoni and general seat of Bhoma constituencies and lost them. In the former it secured 3,639, while in the latter 7,394 valid votes.

The Parishad participated in elections to Vidhan Sabha in three of the five constituencies of the District in 1962. In one of them, viz. Chhapara (reserved) gaining 4,480 votes it suffered a defeat while in Bhoma and Seoni it came out successful. In former it secured 8,687 while in the latter 10,669 valid votes. In subsequent elections the Parishad did not participate.

Jansangh

Jansangh entered in the field of Lok Sabha elections in 1967 when its candidates contested seats in Chhindwara and Jabalpur Lok Sabha constituencies. They lost the elections by securing 38,188 and 74,697 valid votes, respectively. Here the successful Congress nominees got 86,171 and 1,39,427 valid votes, respectively. The Sangh again tried to capture these two seats in 1971 but it lost them. In a triangular fight in Chhindwara Constituency it received 85,613 valid votes while the successful candidate secured 1,03,847. In Jabalpur Constituency the fight was four-cornered. Its candidate got 47,249 valid votes which figure reached 1,39,370 in case of a Congress nominee.

In respect of Vidhan Sabha elections Jansangh first contested one seat (Reserved) of Chhapara Constituency in 1962. It secured 2,191 valid votes and lost it. In 1967 Jansangh contested all the five Vidhan Sabha seats of the District and faced defeat in all of them. Its candidates received votes in following order-Lakhnadon (Reserved) 4,431, Chhapara (Reserved) 2,965, Keolari 5,609; Barghat 3,616 and Seoni 6,744. During the Fifth Vidhan Sabha elections held in 1972 the Jansangh contested all but one seat for Vidhan Sabha. It did not participate in Chhapara reserved Constituency. It lost three seats and captured one. It received votes as follows:—

Lakhnadon (Reserved) 3,766, Keolari-6,440. Seoni 11,596 and Barghat 18,989. It was successful in the last named constituency.

Republican Party

A candidate of this Party was in the field of Lok Sabha elections held in 1967 from Jabalpur Constituency. He got 9,775 valid votes and lost the seat. In respect of Vidhan Sabha elections its candidates contested Barghat Constituency seat in 1962 and again in 1967. They lost the seats securing 1,743 and 2,098 valid votes, respectively.

Forward Block

In the Lok Sabha elections of 1971 a candidate of this Party contested Chhindwara Lok Sabha seat. He, securing 7,749 valid votes, lost the seat.

NEWSPAPERS

Seoni district has made very little contribution to the field of journalism. So far the District witnessed the publication of two Hindi weeklies. *Prahari* (1971) and *Wainganga*, both published from Seoni, the district headquarters, have some circulation in the District. Naturally, the reading public of the District depend for news and views on the periodicals published from places with in the State or out of the State.

Among the English dailies, having wide circulation in the District, figure *Hitavada* (Bhopal and Nagpur) *Madhya Pradesh Chronical* (Bhopal), *Nagpur Times* (Nagpur), *Times of India* (Delhi-Bombay), *Indian Express* (Delhi-Bombay), *Hindustan Times* (Delhi), etc. Hindi Dailies commanding wider circulation in Seoni District include *Nava Bharata* (Nagpur-Bhopal-Jabalpur), *Nai Duniya* (Jabalpur), *Yugadharma* (Nagpur-Jabalpur), *Deshbandhu* (Jabalpur) and *Nava Bharata Times* (Bomnay-Delhi). Marathi-knowing readers subscribe daily *Taruna Bharata* (Nagpur). Urdu dailies like *Al-Jeminam* and *Kaumi-Awaz* published from Delhi and Kanpur, respectively are subscribed by Urdu knowing readers.

As regards the circulation of weeklies in the District *Blitz* in its English, Hindi and Urdu versions, *Dharmayuga* (Hindi-Bombay) *Panchajanya* (Hindi) from Delhi *Saptahika Hindustana* (Hindi) from Delhi and *Illustrated Weekly* (English)-Bombay have wide circulation in the District.

Monthlies like *Sarita*, *Sarika*, *Manohar Kahaniyan*, etc. are also in good circulation.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Shishu Kalyan Kendra, Seoni

This Child Welfare Centre was started in 1952 by an educational institution called Shiva Vidyapitha Seoni organised and registered in 1945-46.

The aims and objects of this Centre are to impart pre-primary education to the children of the age group of 3 to 6 years. It runs school on Montessori system and charges no fees for the tuition.

Annually, about 300 children take advantage of this Centre.

Mahila Mandal, Seoni

The Mandal is also affiliated to the Shiva Vidhyapith, Seoni. Its aim is to work for the all round welfare of the women folk of the town. A tailoring class is attended annually by about 40 ladies. This Mandal was established in 1972.

CHAPTER XIX**PLACES OF INTEREST**

Adegaon (22°35' N. and 79°25' E.)

A large village in the Lakhnadon tahsil Adegaon lies about 46.4 km. to the north of Seoni and about 12.8 km. west of the tahsil headquarters. Adegaon is a bus stop of regular bus service. There is a small fort in the village with a temple of Bhairava inside. It is assigned to Kharak Bharati, the *Gosain* of Varanasi (Benaras). Formerly Adegaon was the headquarters of a *jagir* of the same name that originally belonged to a relative of the Gond Muslim ruling family of Deogarh. After the Maratha conquest the *jagir* was confiscated for non-payment of revenue, but seven villages were given to the family on hereditary basis for maintenance. Till recently the family was in possession of the said villages. As stated earlier Adegaon was given to a *Gosain* of Varanasi, named Kharak Bharti. Subsequently he was appointed as a *subah* of Seoni by Raghuji Bhonsle. After Kharak Bharti death the village passed on to his disciple and in the same manner to other owners. In 1872, while one Dhokal Bharti was the master of the estate Ram Bharti brought a suit and got decree in his favour. Shortly after that he was murdered at Seoni by two dependants of Dhokal Bharti. The murderers were convicted and the estate lapsed to the Government with its village settled with the farmers or *thekadars*. Cloth is woven in the village and dyed with *madder* and *myrabalans* in green shade (*amowa*). A few Nema Baniyas deal in these cloth and thread. The weekly market of this place is held on Saturdays. According to the Census of 1971 Adegaon had a population figure of 2,466.

Ashta (22°40' N and 79°30' E).

A village in Seoni tahsil, Ashta is situated about 35.2 km. south-east of Seoni and about 16 km. from Barghat, another village of the tahsil with the largest market of the district. There are three old temples in the village, two of which with carvings are in a good state of preservation. The other contains a defaced inscription. These are built of stone cemented with lead and joined by iron clamps. All these belong to the Hemadpanthi group of temples. A fantastic local story is related about this Hemadpanthi. He was a magician whose mother died during his birth. To atone for this sin he built 25,000 temples in a single night. Once he cured the king of Ceylon of a dangerous ailment by his magic power. The grateful king, who had some contacts with the celestial bodies, managed to keep the sun and moon still for about 6 months at a stretch. There was continuous

darkness for the said period. Taking advantage of the very long night Hemadpanth succeeded in building the stipulated number of temples in a single night. He is said to have invented the modi character for Marathi. The village possesses a few stone images. The weekly market of this place meets on Mondays. The population figure in 1971 was 2,007.

Bhaironthan (22°40' N. 79°35' E.)

A village of Lakhnadon tahsil, Bhaironthan is situated at a distance of about 12.8 km. to the north of the tahsil headquarters. Within the village there is a cave called Mathghogra where an image of Mahadeva is installed. Probably the village derived its name, meaning the abode of god Bhairava, from this deity. An annual fair is held in his honour in February/March during the *Sivaratri*. It is known as the Mathghogra fair and held for 3 days. The Janapada Sabha Lakhnadon manages the *mela*, which attracts a crowd of about 5,000 persons. The number of inhabitants was 285 in 1971.

Bilaspur (21°50' N. and 78°55' E.)

A small village of Seoni tahsil, Bilaspur's distance from the tahsil headquarters is about 32 km. to the south-east of Seoni town. It is situated in the Kurai tract of the area. The village possesses an old temple, said to have been built by a widowed queen whose husband fell fighting with Aurangzeb. After her husband's murder the Mughal Emperor wanted to marry the widow. She wanted three days time and built the temple within this period. There she installed two statues, one of her husband and one of herself, then committed suicide. A *palas* tree grew up on the spot of her death. The place was populated by 249 souls in 1971.

Chandi (22°00' N. and 79°30' E.)

An important village of Seoni tahsil, Chandi lies at a distance of about 9.6 km. to the south-west of the district headquarters. Chandi was once a place of considerable importance when it was the headquarters of the local governor, till 1703. Its prestige deteriorated after that with the shifting of the headquarters to Chhapara by Bakht Buland's relative, Ram Singh. The village contains the remains of an old temple with a step-well nearby. Otherwise it is a magnificent picnic spot in winter, with its mango groves, old tank full of grebe called *pan-dubbi*, other games and pretty rides. A small weekly market is held here on Thursdays. The local glass bangles with inlaid tinsels are beautiful. The population figure according to the Census of 1971 was 908.

Chhapara (22° 20' N. and 79° 30' E)

A big village of Lakhandon tahsil, Chhapara is pictureously situated on the confluence of the Wainganga with its tributary Motinala. The stream is so called because pearls were found in it. Chhapara is, about 27.2 km. South of Lakhandon and about 33.6 km. north of Seoni on the Seoni-Jabalpur Road. Regular buses ply from these places to the village. The bank of the Wainganga is rocky and steep near Chhapara. A fine bridge was constructed over the river by the orders of Sir Richard Temple, Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces in 1865.

Formerly the village was of 6 hamlets as its name signifies. It is said to have been founded by Ram Singh, a relative of Bakht Buland of Deogarh. Once he is said to have come near this place for hunting, when one hare fought with his hunting dog. That unusual courage of the generally timid animal inspired Ram Singh to shift his capital to this place. He built a fort at Chhapara, but that was partly destroyed during the Great Revolt of 1857-58. The fort is square in shape with towers at the corners and a large gateway towards the east. Its southern face overlooks the Wainganga, while the western one of the Motinala. In the 19th century it was garrisoned by an army of 2,000 Pathans. The fort was twice sacked by the Pindaris. They gathered so much gold from Chhapara that they did not care to take away anything else. A small mound near the river bridge is said to contain the common grave of 40,000 persons. Even after the shifting of the headquarters of the tahsil to Seoni in 1774, Chhapara remained the headquarters of the Southern tahsil for sometime. There are some Hindu and Jain temples in the villages, but none of these are old. Chhapara has considerable trade in cotton and grain specially gram, hemp, glass bangles, gold and silver ornaments. A greyish-white chalk is found on the north bank of the Wainganga and there are fine mango groves. The weekly markets are held on Mondays and Friday. A big cattle market is held in January/February and lasts for about 6 weeks. Persons attending the fair dip in the river. Agricultural implements and cattle driven carts are bought and sold in the fair. The village contains a rest house and a native *sarai* for the travellers. Chhapara's population figure was 532 in 1971. A few primitive tools were picked up from this place during an exploration in 1959-60. These findings lead to the conclusion, that some parts of the district was the abode of the primitive than in the early Stone age.

Bhimgarh (22° 20' N. and 79° 40' E.)

A village of Lakhnadon tahsil, Bhimgarh lies at a distance of about 42 km. from the tahsil headquarters and about 48 km. from Seoni town. It is about 19.2 km. from Ghansor, the nearest important village.

Formerly Bhimgarh was the chief village of an estate of 15 villages, held by the proprietor of Adeagon. Afterwards it passed on to the Government and was settled on *ryotwari* system. On a hill near this village there are a large number of ruined statues made of stone. They are rude in execution and represent horse and foot soldiers. The local people believe them to be 500 years old. According to a locally current story these stone figures were originally the army of one Gangaji Raja. On the eastern and western side of the same hill there are traces of ruined fortification. Bi-Weekly markets of this village meet on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Dhuma (22° 45' N. and 79° 40' E)

A village in Lakhnadon tahsil, Dhuma lies about 20.8 km. north of the tahsil headquarters on the Jabalpur Road. From Jabalpur itself its distance is about 54.4 km. Regular buses are available to reach the place. Dhuma is 82 km. away from Seoni Town and its altitude is about 554 metres from the sea level. Dhuma was the headquarters of an old Raj-Gond family, one of whose members was on the verge of revolting during the Great Revolt of 1857. He was, however, persuaded by the then Deputy Commissioner to remain loyal to the British. But some rebels from Jabalpur and Narsimhapur stationed themselves in a nearby hill and practically closed the road for travellers. They were surprised and dispersed at the end of 1857. The village possesses a few old temples and a tank, which was repaired during the famine of 1897. Superior quality sugarcane is produced here and some trade in grain is done. There is a resthouse for the travellers that once served as a fortress. An encamping ground is also existing. The local weekly market meets on Fridays for its inhabitants numbering 715.

Dighori (22° 20' N. and 79° 40' E)

A small village in Seoni tahsil, Dighori is situated on the Thel river at a distance of about 40 km. to the north-west of the district headquarters. Near the village and facing it, there is a cave, the walls of which are carved with sculptures. The place is an esteemed place of worship for the Gonds. The worshippers catch large fish from the Thel, because according to local belief some of these have gold rings in their mouths. Dighori's population figure was 474 in 1971.

Ghansor (22° 30' N and 79° 45' E)

A small village in Lakhnadon tahsil, Ghansor is about 48 km. to the north-east of the district headquarters and about 9.6 km. from the Keolari railway station. From the Seoni-Nainpur main road its distance is about 7 km.

A large number of ruined temples are located here on the bank of the little stream, named Laneti. Cut and broken stones from these temples are scattered in mounds, covering an area of 1.6 km. by 4 km. Two of the temples appear to have been of considerable size. A fine statue of a Jain Tirthankara is worshipped by the Hindus as Nagbaba. Some carvings from this place have been kept in the Dalsagar Tank of Seoni, while some Jain icons have been kept in modern Jain temples. From the sculptures of these temples it appears that they belonged to about the 9th century A.D. The weekly market meets here on Fridays. About 2712 persons lived in the village in 1971.

Lakhnadon (22° 35' N. and 79° 35' E)

The headquarters of the tahsil of the same name, Lakhnadon lies on the Nagpur-Jabalpur Road at a distance of about 61 km. north of Seoni. According to a local tradition, Lakhnadon was founded by one Lakhan Kunwar, whose stone statue is shown by the villagers near a local tank known as Rani Tal. People believe him to be a relative of the Pandavas, who was appointed by them as their Vice-regent while they were lords of Bareilly near Narsimhapur. From its numerous ruined Hindu and Jain temples and other buildings it seems quite likely that once Lakhnadon was really a place of great interest. Some fragments of sculptures have been collected from these temples and kept near the shrine of Khermata, the tutelary village goddess. Some have been kept in the Nagpur Museum, while some have been used in constructing bridges on the Nagpur-Jabalpur Road. Broken stones and images can still be dug up in *situ* in Lakhnadon. Two temples outside the village have lately been constructed out of the material of the ruined temples. These shrines appear to have belonged to the 9th or 10th century A.D. as their mediaeval Brahmanical style indicates. A little more than a kilometre away from Lakhnadon there is a small fortress on top a hillock called Son Tauria. A short inscription on two broken stones was picked up on the spot. It refers to the construction of a palace by one Vikram Sen after invoking a Jain god. Lakhnadon was formerly the capital of an estate of 34 or *Chaurasi* villages, an important figure in Hindu mythology, literature and land measurement. Weekly markets are held in the village on Mondays and Fridays. The place was populated by 4770 persons in 1971.

Lurgi (22° 20' N. and 79° 20' E)

A small village of Lakhnadon tahsil, Lurgi is situated near confluence of the Thel and the Wainganga rivers at a distance of about 32 km. to the south-west of the tahsil headquarters. The confluence of the rivers is known as Songarh.

In the Songarh area there is an old fort and a few carved stones. The local people believe that once there was a shower of gold. Some gold fell into the fort, which they believe is still concealed in it. The population figure was 362 in 1971.

Rajola (22° 50' N and 79° 50' E)

A village of Seoni tahsil, Rajola lies about 16 km. to the southeast of Seoni Town. The nearest important village is Partabpur. The village contains a spot, named Mundara from where the river Wainganga originates in a pool of water. A local story current about the source is, that once there lived a Gond girl named Ganga. She was betrothed to a youth of her caste who came to serve at her father's place before wedding. One day while he was digging a well water rushed out and floated him away. Ganga came to the spot in quest of her fiancé and noticed two hands rising up from the water level. She recognised those as belonging to her lover and plunged herself into the water. The hands thereupon clasped her body and the couple was washed away. The water, however, remained there afterwards and led to the creation of the river. Gradually the spot came to be considered sacred and several temples were built there. A big annual fair is held near the spot for 15 days attracting more than 10,000 pilgrims. The population figure was 236 in 1971.

Sarekha (22° 15' N and 79° 50' E)

A small village of Seoni tahsil, Sarekha lies on the confluence of the rivers Wainganga and Hirri, at a distance about 23.6 km. to the north of the district town. A tourist holiday camp is situated at a distance of about 12 km. from this place. Buses are available in the morning and evening between Surekha and Seoni. At the confluence of the Hirri and Wainganga there are some unusual type of large circles of stones, "placed standing in groups of four or five with a massive flat one lying tablewise above them and are arranged in circles of 40 or 50 feet in diameter. They have been held to be of Indo-Sythic origin¹ These stone circles resemble those at Stonehenge. The local story associated to these circles is as follows :

Before the Gonds settled in this place it was believed to have been inhabited by forest fairies and gods like Dongar Deo, Sunder Deo, Gurera Deo, Kukra Deo, Bhimsen, etc. In a bid to reduce the Wainganga Bhimsen wanted to dam up the river. As was customary, he started his work at night and began to tear up nearby hills by the roots and throw the down the valley quickly. He was in haste to the river before day-break. In the process a big Super near the end of the river and a big hog-backed hill were created. Only a little gap remained between the hills for the river to flow. Bhimsen further tore two

more hills and flung those into the stream with the help of his long stone staff. People say it is still existing at a distance of about 48 km. After this reduction of the river the beautiful Hirri river was born. She was to be married to the Wainganga. Everybody except the crooked god Kukra Deo was invited to witness the wedding. While the marriage feast was going on near the confluence and the young gods and fairies were dancing gaily, Kukra Deo appeared on the scene with a cock in his armpit. He threw the bird with a cash and himself jumped into the Wainganga with a loud yell. The cock too clapped his wings and crew sharply. Instantaneously, everything turned into stone. The silver Hirri fell into Wainganga's arms sobbing, who bore her away. Since then the valley became silent.

An annual fair is held for 3 days in Surekha near an old Siva temple. Religious programmes are held in the *mela*. It is attended by about 5 thousand visitors from Seoni and Balaghat. The local *gram panchayat* manages the fair. Sarekha had a population of 789 in 1971. In an exploration in 1959-60 a few pre-historic tools have been unearthed from Sukhera, proving the fact that the place was an abode of the primitive man. The collection included scrapers, points, borers on chert, several tanged and shouldered points, arrow-heads, adze (axe like tool) burins and thick blades.¹

Seoni Town (22° 5' N and 79° 33' E)

Seoni is the headquarters town of the district. It is also known as Seoni-Chhapara. Seoni is situated on the Nagpur-Jabalpur Road, at a distance of about 126.4 km. from Nagpur and about 137.6 km. from Jabalpur. A narrow-gauge railway runs from Nainpur junction to Chhindwara via Seoni, by rail the distances between Seoni and Nagpur and Seoni and Bombay are 324.8 and 1,155.2 km., respectively.

Seoni was founded in 1774 by the Pathan Governor, Muhammad Amir Khan, who shifted his headquarters here from Chhapara and built a fort after the style of the Nagpur Raja's palace. Afterwards the Diwan's family used to reside inside the fort. Some old buildings of the town were destroyed by fire in 1889. Of the old buildings mention may be made of a few fine Jain temples, known as the Sukarwari temples. These have been erected by the *Pawar banias* during the early part of the British period. An image with an inscription, dating 1491 A.D. was brought from Chandi and installed in one of these temples. Some old *sati* pillars are existing in the town. At a little distance from the town there is the tomb of the Muslim saint Muhammad Shah Ali on the Jabalpur Road. He saved the life of the Dewan of Seoni when he was on the verge of being trampled by an elephant. The tomb is worshipped by the local Muslims. The local Moti Tank contains a temple of a Kayastha, who became a *gosaïn* and went into the tomb while still alive. During the *Dassera*

1. *ibid*

1. Indian Archaeology, A Review, 1959-60. p-25.

a few people get together near the spot. There are two platforms in the town to commemorate the valour of one Sunde Shah or Lunde Khan, who is supposed to have defended Seoni. In this act his head was struck off his body about $1\frac{1}{2}$ km¹, outside the town but the beheaded body continued fighting till it reached Seoni.

The railway station of the town is situated to the south of the town, while the officer's bungalows are to the north. The District Court house, the Mission High School, two beautiful churches of flag stone and the Victoria Library are some notable buildings of Seoni. The Victoria Library, which serves also as the Town-Hall was constructed in 1885 at a cost of Rs.2,000 out of public contribution. To the north of the town is the Dalsagar tank, excavated by one Dalsa Gaoli to water his buffaloes. In 1866-67 it was enlarged and its stone ghats were constructed.

The stone steps were extended along the entire southern side and some carvings, brought from Ghansor, were placed. These are executed in mediaeval Brahmanical style, some of which are graceful. The most noteworthy images of these carvings are of Siva, seated on a two-bodied Nandi with Ganga flowing his hair, Narayan seated on a couch with two women rubbing his feet, Krishna dancing on the snake and an eight-headed goddess. A small ornamental island has been constructed in the same tank. Another tank, worth mentioning is the Budhawari tank, with some flights of steps. The town is the most important trading centre of the Satpura plateau, the principal items of export being grains, oil seeds and hemp.

Recent exploration in the district has established its remote antiquity by yielding a few Middle Stone Age tools at Seoni proper. It is not out of place to mention here that several sites yielding Stone Age tools of different categories were similarly discovered at the source region of the Wainganga.²

1. Indian archaeology—A Review, 1961-62 p. 100

2. *ibid*, 1959-60, p. 25.

APPENDIX—A (STATISTICAL TABLES)

	Page
1. Normal and Extremes of Rainfall	261
2. Frequency of Annual Rainfall	263
3. Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity	264
4. Mean Wind Speed	265
5. Special Weather Phenomena	265
6. Land Utilisation	266
7. Net Area Irrigated	267
8. Principal Crops-Out-turn	267
9. Principal Crops-Area	268
10. Education Among the Inmates of Reformatory School	269
11. Number of Inmates in Reformatory School	270
12. Number of Inmates of Reformatory School According to Length of Sentence	271
13. Revision and Appellate work done by Courts	272

APPENDIX—B

1. List of Floral Species found in Seoni District	273
(a) Trees	273
(b) Small Trees	274
(c) Shrubs and Undergrowth	275
(d) Climbers	277
(e) Grasses	277
(f) Other Plants and Herbs	278
2. List of Post Offices Telegraph and Public-call offices	279
3. Situation of Rest House and Circuit House	282
4. Location of Nyaya Panchayats	283
5. Freedom Fighters of the District	284
6. Conversion Table	

TABLE—1
Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. of years of Data	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Seoni.	50a	19.6	24.9	22.3	16.5	23.64	216.4	419.9
	b	1.6	2.5	2.1	1.7	2.7	11.0	18.3
Keolari	45a	22.6	33.0	29.0	24.4	16.5	215.6	466.3
	b	1.8	2.6	2.5	1.8	1.5	10.4	18.7
Lakhnadon	50a	24.4	35.6	26.1	16.3	16.3	170.7	370.5
	b	2.1	2.5	2.0	1.4	2.3	9.8	16.5
Ghansore	29a	30.2	36.6	23.8	18.5	10.7	178.3	451.1
	b	2.4	2.8	1.6	1.3	0.8	9.6	19.2
Seoni	a	24.2	32.5	24.4	18.9	16.7	195.0	429.2
(District)	b	2.0	2.8	2.1	1.5	1.4	10.1	18.2

SEONI

August	September	October	November	December	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as% of normal & year*	Lowest Annual rainfall as% of normal & year*	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours	Date
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
355.9	202.4	64.3	21.6	10.4	1,397.6	137	55	281.9	1913, Aug. 2
16.3	10.7	3.5	1.1	0.8	71.7	(1917)	(1902)		
366.3	205.7	60.7	21.6	13.5	1,474.2	137	56	264.2	1918, June 18
17.0	10.1	3.1	1.2	1.0	71.7	(1933)	(1941)		
322.8	201.4	52.1	18.3	8.4	1,269.9	150	52	252.5	1898, July 5
14.6	9.7	3.0	1.2	0.9	64.2	(1933)	(1922)		
353.9	209.3	57.4	17.8	9.1	1,397.0	140	70	271.5	1939, July 5
16.4	10.4	3.4	1.0	1.0	70.3	(1936)	(1941)		
350.2	204.7	58.6	19.8	10.3	1,384.5	132	60		
16.1	10.2	3.3	1.1	0.9	69.5	(1933)	(1902)		

(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 1961. ** Years given in brackets.

APPENDIX

TABLE-II

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

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
801—900	1	1,401—1,500	11
901—1,000	4	1,501—1,600	5
1,001—1,100	1	1,601—1,700	3
1,101—1,200	6	1,701—1,800	2
1,201—1,300	6	1,801—1,900	2
1,301—1,400	9		

TABLE—III
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity (Seoni)

Month	Mean Daily Maximum Temperature °C	Mean Daily Minimum Temperature °C	Highest maximum ever recorded °C	Date	Lowest Minimum ever recorded °C	Date	Relative* Humidity	
							0830 %	1730 %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January	25.9	11.1	32.8	1882-, Jan. 25	2.8	1937, Jan. 7	63	44
February	28.3	12.7	37.2	1896-, Feb. 29	3.3	1911, Feb. 2	54	34
March	33.3	17.1	40.6	1899, Mar. 28	6.1	1910, Mar. 6	38	26
April	37.6	21.5	43.9	1942, Apr. 29	11.7	1905, Apr. 1	31	22
May	39.9	24.8	44.4	1954, May 26	15.0	1917, May 4	30	24
June	35.1	24.1	45.0	1942, Jun. 29	16.0	1960, Jun. 16	61	58
July	28.8	22.4	37.8	1931, July 1	17.8	1941, July 12	84	82
August	28.2	21.9	35.6	1899, Aug. 6	17.1	1917, Aug. 14	85	81
September	29.4	31.4	35.0	1944, Sept. 27	16.1	1942, Sept. 29	80	71
October	30.2	17.9	36.1	1899, Oct. 7	10.6	1910, Oct. 31	62	49
November	27.4	13.0	33.9	1899, Nov. 20	6.7	1939, Nov. 30	58	41
December	25.5	10.4	31.7	1899, Dec. 31	3.3	1936, Dec. 30	61	40
Annual	30.8	18.2					59	48

*Hours *ST

TABLE—IV

Mean Wind Speed in Km/Hr. (Seoni)

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
4.0	4.7	4.8	5.6	6.3	7.2	7.4
August	Sept.	October	November	December	Annual	
6.8	5.0	4.0	3.7	3.4	5.2	

TABLE—V

Special Weather Phenomena (Seoni)

Mean No. of days with	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
Thunder	1.0	4.3	5.5	5.4	5.9
Hail	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3
Dust-Storm	..	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Squall	..	..	..	0.1	..
Fog	0.4	0.3	0.1	..	..

June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dece.	Annual
12.4	7.3	6.9	6.8	1.7	0.8	0.4	59
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.4
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.3
0.4	0.1	..	..	..	..	0.1	0.2
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.2
..	0.2	0.1	..	0.1	..	..	

TABLE—VI

Land Utilisation

(In '000 hectares)

Year	Area according to village papers	Forest	Not available for cultivation	Put to Non-Agricultural uses	Barren and Unculturable Land	Other Uncultivated Land Excluding Fallow Lands	Permanent Pastures and other Grazing Lands
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1950-51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1955-56	871	294	..	..	..	..	..
1960-61	871	294	47	42	6	132	72
1965-66	871	324	43	37	7	93	47
1969-70	871	323	43	34	9	87	44
1970-71	871	323	43	34	9	79	43
1971-72	871	323	43	34	9	70	41
1972-73	871	323	43	36	7	70	41
1973-74	871	323	42	35	7	72	42

Year	Miscellaneous Tree Crops & Groves	Culturable Waste	Total Fallow Lands	Fallow lands other than current fallows	Current Fallows	Net Area Sown	Sown More than once	Gross Cropped Area
1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1950-51	..	..	..	..	..	287	17	304
1955-56	..	..	..	..	..	318	22	340
1960-61	3	57	70	46	24	327	28	355
1965-66	..	46	64	37	37	346	17	363
1969-70	1	42	51	33	18	375	28	403
1970-71	1	35	53	27	26	367	29	396
1971-72	1	28	61	39	22	374	33	407
1972-73	..	29	64	38	26	370	23	393
1973-74	..	30	67	38	29	367	31	398

TABLE—VII
Net Area Irrigated

(In '000 hectares)

Year	Canals	Wells	Tanks	Other Sources	Total	Gross Area Irrigated
1950-51	5.1	1.2	8.4	2.6	17.4	17.4
1955-56	8.1	1.3	7.4	2.0	18.9	18.9
1960-61	11.7	1.4	6.8	2.2	22.1	22.1
1965-66	5.9	1.3	3.2	1.3	11.7	11.9
1966-67	11.9	1.4	6.1	2.8	22.2	22.4
1967-68	13.0	1.3	6.9	2.0	23.3	23.6
1968-69	14.3	1.6	7.1	2.5	25.5	25.9
1969-70	14.4	2.1	7.6	2.0	26.1	26.5
1970-71	15.3	2.5	6.9	2.4	27.1	27.4
1971-72	16.4	2.9	7.0	2.7	29.0	29.0
1972-73	12.9	2.3	6.3	2.3	23.8	24.9
1973-74	13.4	2.9	4.8	1.7	22.8	22.9

TABLE—VIII
Principal Crops Out-turn

(In '000 Tonnes)

Year	Paddy	Jowar	Wheat	Gram	Tiura	Kodon and Kitchi	Til	Li
1950-51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1955-61	69.2	5.6	33.6	9.	..	..	1.0	1.8
1960-61	55.0	8.1	41.1	11.9	..	..	0.4	2.6
1965-66	33.4	9.1	23.0	13.5	..	..	0.8	2.1
1966-67	51.5	12.5	28.7	13.8	..	..	1.3	3.0
1967-68	76.5	12.9	28.0	11.1	..	..	1.3	4.7
1968-69	79.0	13.3	38.1	12.7	5.7	11.3	1.5	4.1
1969-70	94.6	10.3	35.4	8.3	..	12.1	1.2	2.9
1970-71	102.4	9.3	33.6	11.7	..	8.7	1.0	3.9
1971-72	110.8	8.8	37.2	17.0	..	9.7	0.9	5.5
1972-73	147.9	7.1	40.2	12.0	..	6.3	0.8	5.6
1973-74	115.7	10.5	25.8	16.4	..	10.1	1.0	6.4

TABLE-IX
Principal Crops—Area

(In '000 Hectares)

Year	Paddy	Jowar	Wheat	Gram	Kodan and Kutki	Tiura	Ti	Linseed
1950-51	64	11	66	25	..	..	3.9	9.3
1955-56	62	16	77	28	..	..	6.8	9.6
1960-61	73	15	84	30	..	..	5.1	14.3
1965-66	68	17	75	29	..	..	7.6	14.3
1966-67	78	22	1	28	..	..	12.7	12.6
1967-68	78	19	72	26	..	..	13.3	18.8
1968-69	82.2	18.4	87.9	28.1	59.2	13.8	8.6	18.7
1969-70	82.9	17.0	90.3	27.6	57.4	18.0	7.7	16.0
1970-71	84.2	16.1	87.5	25.7	51.9	21.1	8.0	17.3
1971-72	87.7	14.7	86.7	27.6	53.5	21.9	8.2	19.0
1972-73	84.4	15.2	79.4	27.2	53.0	19.2	6.2	18.4
1973-74	83.3	15.0	67.9	28.5	51.9	20.5	5.7	26.4

TABLE-X

Education Among the Inmates of Reformatory School

Years	1st Standard		2nd Standard		3rd Standard		4th Standard		5th Standard	
	Appeared	Passed	Appeared	Passed	Appeared	Passed	Appeared	Passed	Appeared	Passed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1950	38	28	25	18	26	19	3	3	..	..
1951	20	12	17	13	21	12	13	13	..	..
1952	19	14	23	18	25	19	5	5	..	..
1953	15	9	18	11	26	20	7	6	..	..
1954	12	8	26	17	12	11	5	5	..	..
1955	29	10	16	12	15	12	5	5	..	..
1956	21	17	36	29	11	9	2	2	..	..
1957	12	9	22	15	20	18	3	3	..	..
1958	9	8	14	13	10	10	13	12	4	4
1959	9	7	8	6	9	8	4	4	4	4
1960	10	9	10	9	6	6	4	4	3	3
1961	4	4	8	8	8	8	3	3	1	1
1962	9	9	5	5	7	7	3	5	2	2
1963	11	10	11	11	2	2	2	2	2	2
1964	12	12	11	11	8	8	2	2	2	2
1965	14	10	8	8	9	8	3	3	..	..
1966	18	13	5	5	4	4	2	2	1	1
1967	12	9	12	11	5	5	3	3	2	2
1968	16	11	9	7	10	10	3	3	3	3
1969	13	7	13	11	4	4	3	3	1	1
1970	22	22	7	7	3	2	2	1	2	1
1971	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1972	13	12	25	24	6	6	6	5	2	2

TABLE—XI

Number of Inmates in Reformatory School

Year	At the beginning of the year	Received during the year	Discharged from all causes	Remaining at the end of the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1950	123	20	18	125
1951	125	37	29	133
1952	133	26	37	122
1953	122	30	32	120
1954	120	34	71	83
1955	83	33	21	95
1956	95	37	47	85
1957	85	12	27	70
1958	70	10	26	54
1959	54	14	30	38
1960	38	17	19	36
1961	36	12	14	34
1962	34	16	15	35
1963	35	25	16	44
1964	44	28	13	59
1965	59	24	33	50
1966	50	16	19	47
1967	47	31	14	64
1968	64	18	25	57
1969	57	25	32	50
1970	50	37	17	70
1971	70	3	21	52
1972	52	6	26	32

(Up to October)

TABLE—XI

Number of Inmates of Reformatory School According to Length of Sentence

Year	Up to two years	2—5 years	5—10 years
1950	Nil	119	4
1951	"	121	4
1952	"	129	4
1953	"	116	6
1954	"	118	2
1955	"	83	—
1956	"	95	..
1957	"	85	..
1958	"	70	..
1959	"	54	—
1960	"	37	1
1961	"	36	..
1962	"	33	1
1963	"	34	1
1964	"	43	1
1965	"	59	..
1966	"	50	..
1967	"	45	1
1968	"	64	..
1969	"	54	3
1970	"	49	1
1971	"	70	..
1972	"	52	..

TABLE—XIII
Revision and Appellate Work done by Courts

Year	Revision and appellate cases							Regular Civil Appeals							Miscellaneous Civil Appeals						
	1966	67	68	69	70	71	72	1966	67	68	69	70	71	72	1966	67	68	69	70	71	72
1. Pending at the beginning	49	21	13	22	18	9	21	338	316	277	147	97	66	65	32	22	41	24	26	17	10
2. Instituted and Reinstited	55	19	18	5	27	7	11	208	149	176	108	74	89	96	32	48	28	29	30	19	37
3. Otherwise Received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	98	120	50	46	8	—	5	7	5	4	15	—	—

Sources: District and Sessions Judge, Seoni.

APPENDIX—B

I—List of Floral Species found in Seoni District
(a) Trees

1	2	3
1. Am		Mangifera Indica, Linn.
2. Aonla		Phyllanthus emblica, Linn (Euphorbiaceae).
3. Arjun		Terminalia arjuna, Bedd.
4. Babul		Acacia arabica, Willd.
5. Bahera		Terminalia belerica, Roxb.
6. Bar		Ficus bengalensis, Linn.
7. Bel		Aegle marmelos, Correa.
8. Bhirra		Chloroxylon swietenia, DC.
9. Bhonrsal		Hyomenodictyon excelsum, Wall.
10. Bijasal		Pterocarpus marsupium, Roxb.
11. Bistendu		Diospyros montana, Roxb.
12. Chandan		Santalum Album, Linn.
13. Chichwa		Albizzia odoratissima, Benth.
14. Chirol		Holoptelea integrifolia, Planch.
15. Dhaman		Grewia tiliaefolia, Vahl.
16. Dhaora		Anaogeissus latifolia, Wall.
17. Dho bin		Dalbergia paniculata, Roxb.
18. Gamari (Sewan) or Khamar		Gmelina arborea, Roxb.
19. Gular (Umar)		Ficus glomerata, Roxb.
20. Haldu		Adina cordifolia, Hook.
21. Harra		Terminalia belerica, Roxb.
22. Imali		Tamarindus indica, Linn.
23. Jamun		Eugenia jambolana Lamk
24. Garari		Cleistanthus collinus, Benth.
25. Jhingan (mowai) of (moyan)		Odina Wodier Roxb.
26. Kajm (mundi)		Stephegune parvifolia, Korth.
27. Kala Siris		Albizzia lebbek, Benth.
28. Kalla		Dillenia pentagyna, Roxb.
29. Karanj		Pongamia glabra, venl.
30. Kari		Saccopetalum tomentosum.
31. Kasai		Bridelia retusa, Spreng.
32. Kadam		Anthocephalus cadamba

1	2	3
33.	Kekad	Garuga pinnata, Roxb.
34.	Khair	Acacia catechu Willd.
35.	Kulu	Sterculia urens, Roxb.
36.	Kumbhi	Careya arborea, Roxb.
37.	Kusum	Schlelchera for trijuga Willd.
38.	Maharukb	Ailanthus excelsa, Roxb.
39.	Mahua	Madhuca latifolia, Roxb, Macbr.
40.	Mokha	Schrebera swietenoides, Roxb.
41.	Neem	Azadirachta indica, A. Juss.
42.	Padar	Stereospermum Sua veolens, D.C.
43.	Padari	Stereospermum Chelenoides, D.C.
44.	Pakar	Ficus infectoria, Roxb.
45.	Palas	Butea monosperma, D. Ktze.
46.	Pangra (Panjra)	Erythrina suberosa, Roxb.
47.	Pipal	Ficus religiosa, linn.
48.	Pula (Barga)	Kydia calycina, Roxb.
49.	Reunjaa (Hewar)	Acacia leucophloea, Willd.
50.	Rohan	Soymida febrifuga, A. Juss.
51.	Sada Saenuri	Ficus Cunia-Ham.
52.	Safed Siris	Albizzia procera, Benth.
53.	Sagon	Tactona grandis, Linn.
54.	Saj	Terminalia tomentosa, W&A.
55.	Salai	Boswellia serrata, Roxb.
56.	Seja	Lagerstroemia parviflora, Roxb.
57.	Semal	Bombax malabaricum, D.C.
58.	Shisham	Dalbergia latifolia, Roxb.
59.	Son Padar or Jaimangal	Stereospermum xylocarpum, Benth wight.
60.	Tendu	Diospyros melanoxylon, Roxb.
61.	Tinsa	Ougeinia dalbergiodes, Benth.
(b) Small Trees		
1.	Aal	Morinda tinctoria, Roxb.
2.	Achar	Buchanania latifolia, Roxb.
3.	Amaltas	Cassia, fistula, Linn.
4.	Amta	Bauhinia malabarica, Roxb.
5.	Asta	Bauhinia racemosa, Lamk.
6.	Ber	Zizyphus Jujuba Lamk.
7.	Bhilma	Semecarpus anacardium, Linn.

1	2	3
8.	Bilsena	Limonia Acidissima. Linn.
9.	Dahiwar	Cordia macleodi, H. F. & T.
10.	Datranga	Ehretia laevis, Roxb.
11.	Dikamali	Gardenia lucida Roxb.
12.	Damsal	Milinsa velutin, Hook F. & Th.
13.	Dudhi	Wrightia tometosa, R. S.
14.	Galgai	Cochlospermum gossypium D. C.
15.	Gilchi	Cssearia gra veolens, Dalz.
16.	Ghont	Zizyphus zylopyra, Willd.
17.	Jamrasi	Elaeodendron glaucum, Pers.
18.	Kachnar	Bauhinia variegata, Linn.
19.	Kakai	Flacourtia ramantchi, L. Herit.
20.	Kalidudhi	Wrightia tomentosa, R & S.
21.	Katamba	Ficus hispida
22.	Katul	Randia uliginsa, D. C. O.
23.	Keolar	Bauhinia purpurea, Linn.
24.	Kurmuri	Gardenia gummifera, Linn. F.
25.	Lasora	Cordia myxa, Linn.
26.	Lokhandi	Isora parviflora, Vahl.
27.	Mainphal	Randia dumetorum, Lamk.
28.	Palang	Heterophagma roxbughii.
29.	Papra	Gardinia latifolia, Ait.
30.	Phetra	Gardenia turgida, Roxb.
31.	Roli	Mallotus phillippinesis, Muell.
32.	Sehra	Bauhinia retusa, Roxb.
33.	Sehund	Euphorbia nivulia, Ham.
34.	Tilwan	Wendlandia exserta.
35.	Tondri	Casaria tomentosa, Roxb.

(c) Shrubs and Undergrowth

1.	Aak	Calotropis gigantea, R. Br.
2.	Adusa	Adhatoda, vasica, Neer.
3.	Akol	Alangium lamarckii, thwaites
4.	Apamarga	Achyranthes aspera, Linn.
5.	Baibirang	Embelia robusta, Roxb.
6.	Barcha	Hamiltonia sua veolens, Roxb.
7.	Bhant	Clerodendron infortunatum

1	2	3
8.	Bharati	<i>Cynnosporia montana</i> .
9.	Chhind	<i>Phoenix acauis</i> .
10.	Chipti	<i>Desmo-dium pulchellum</i> .
11.	Churna	<i>Zizyphus rugosa</i> , Lamk.
12.	Dhawai	<i>Woodfordia floribunda</i> , Salist
13.	Ghokhuru	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> , Linn.
14.	Gursakri	<i>Grewia hirsuta</i> , Vahl.
15.	Halduli	<i>Waltheria indica</i> , Linn.
16.	Harsingar	<i>Nyctanthes arbortristis</i> , Linn.
17.	Indrajata	<i>Petaldium barlerioides</i> , Nees.
18.	Jharberi	<i>Zizyphus rotundifolia</i> , Lamk.
19.	Jhau	<i>Tamarix dioliaica</i> , Roxb.
20.	Jondharli	<i>Antidesma ghaesembilla</i> , Gaertn.
21.	Hansiadafar	<i>Baliospermum axillare</i> , Bl.
22.	Kala bansa	<i>Colebrookia oppositifolia</i> , Smith.
23.	Karil	<i>Capparis aphylla</i> Roth.
24.	Karonda	<i>Carissa spinarum</i> , A. D. C.
25.	Karandi	<i>Premna barbata</i> .
26.	Kath Jamun	<i>Eugenea heyneana</i> , Wall.
27.	Kharenta	<i>Dodonea viscosa</i> , Linn.
28.	Khatua	<i>Antidesma diandrum</i> , Roth.
29.	Kora	<i>Pogostemon plectranthoides</i> , Desf.
30.	Kurchi	<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> , Wall.
31.	Marorphali	<i>Helicteres isora</i> , Linn.
32.	Mehandi	<i>Lawsonia alba</i> .
33.	Mithaneem	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> , Sparg.
34.	Nagphani	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> , Hair.
35.	Neel	<i>Indigofera pulchella</i> , Roxb.
36.	Nirgundi	<i>Vitex negundo</i> , Linn.
37.	Panwar	<i>Cassia tora</i> , Linn.
38.	Raimunia	<i>Lantana camara</i> , Linn.
39.	Ratanjot	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> .
40.	Sitaphal	<i>Anona squamosa</i> , Linn.
41.	Talamakhana	<i>Hygrophila spinesa</i> , T. A.
42.	Thuar	<i>Euphorbia neriifolia</i> , Linn.
43.	Ulat kanta	<i>Capparis horrida</i> , Linn.
44.	Unt kanta	<i>Hygrophila horrida Barleria cristata</i> .

1	2	3
(d) Climbers		
1.	Amarbel	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> , Roxb.
2.	Bokhari (Nagbel)	<i>Cryptolepis bunchanani</i> , R. & S.
3.	Baichandi	<i>Dioscorea daemona</i> , Roxb.
4.	Chilati	<i>Mimosa hamata</i>
5.	Dhimarbel	<i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> , Br.
6.	Dudhbel	<i>Vauaris heyneal</i> Spreng.
7.	Gauj	<i>Millettia auriculata</i> , Baker.
8.	Gudmar	<i>Gymnema sylvestris</i> , R. Baker
9.	Gunja	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> , Linn.
10.	Curar	<i>Acacia caesia</i> , W. & A.
11.	Keoti	<i>Ventilago calyculata</i> , Tul.
12.	Kewanch	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> D. C.
13.	Kukaranj	<i>Calycopteris floribunda</i> , Lamk.
14.	Mahul	<i>Bauhinia Vahlia</i> , R. & S.
15.	Makor	<i>Zizyphus oenoplia</i> , Mill.
16.	Malkangni	<i>Celastrus paniculata</i> , Willd.
17.	Nagbel (Bokhari)	<i>Cryptolepis buehanani</i> , R. & S.
18.	Nasbel	<i>Spatholobus roxburghii</i> Bongh.
19.	Palasbel	<i>Butea superba</i> , Roxb.
20.	Pivarbel	<i>Combretum decandrum</i> , Roxb.
21.	Ramdaton	<i>Smilax macrophylla</i> , Roxb.
22.	Raoni	<i>Acacia pennate</i> , Willd.
23.	Yagkahi	<i>Jasminum arberisena</i> .
(e) Grasses		
1.	Barru	<i>Sorghum halepense</i> pers.
2.	Bhurbhusi	<i>Eragrostic Tenolla</i> , Link
3.	Chhir	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> , P. Beauv.
4.	Doob	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> , Pers.
5.	Garru	<i>Coix gigantea</i> , Ken.
6.	Gunher	<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i> , O. Kuntz.
7.	Gophil	<i>Eragrestis bifora</i> , Wight.
8.	Kans	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> , Linn.
9.	Karpia	<i>Chionachne Koenigii</i> , Thw.
10.	Khus	<i>Veteraria zizanioides</i> , Nash.
11.	Kunda	<i>Ischaemum pilosum</i> , Hack.

1	2	3
12. Kush		<i>Desmostachya bipinnata</i> , Stapf.
13. Kusol		<i>Heteropogon contortus</i> , Beauv.
14. Marwel		<i>Dichanthium annulatum</i> , Stapf.
15. Moya		<i>Pennisetum hohenackeri</i> , Hochst.
16. Munj		<i>Saccharum munja</i> , Roxb.
17. Nagrel		<i>Pant ucum prostratum</i> , Lamk.
18. Paonia		<i>Schima sulcatum</i> , A. Camus.
19. Pandhod		<i>Chloris virgate</i> , S. W.
20. Phulbuhari		<i>Thysanolaena maxima</i> , O. Kuntz.
21. Rusa		<i>Cymbopogon mattini</i> , Wats.
22. Sabai		<i>Eulaliopsis binata</i> , C. E. Hubb.
23. Sena (Sheda)		<i>Schima nervosum</i> , Stapf.

(f) Other Plants and Herbs

1. Bandha	<i>Loranthus longiflorus</i> Desr.
2. Bans	<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i> , Nees.
3. Katang Bans	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> Willd.
4. Jungli San	<i>Cretalaria sericea</i> Willd.
5. Lapti	<i>Urena Lebete</i> , Linn.
6. Lapti	<i>Urena sinuata</i> , Linn.
7. Narbod	<i>Asparagus recemesus</i> .
8. Mai Maidara	<i>Strobilanthes auriculatus</i> .
9. Sasal	<i>Agave americana</i> .
10. Van bhendi	<i>Hibiscus ficulneus</i> .
11. Van kapas	<i>Thespesia lampas</i> , (Dalz. & Gibs).
12. Van rahar	<i>Flemiagia semialata</i> , Roxb.
13. Van tulsi	<i>Ocimum-canum</i> .

APPENDIX B-II

List of Post Offices, Telegraph and Public Call Offices
Seoni District

Sl. No.	Name	Type of office	Whether and Telephone Facilities also exist
1	2	3	4
1. Seoni		Sub-Office	T. O.
2. Amargarh		Branch-Office	
3. Badalpar		"	
4. Bandol		"	
5. Bhoma		"	
6. Binjhawara		"	
7. Balarpur		"	
8. Belpeth		"	
9. Bhonga Kheda		"	
10. Chaouri		"	
11. Chaundri Khurd		"	
12. Chhui		"	
13. Chakki Kharmaria		"	
14. Dhapara		"	
15. Djobissarra		"	
16. Dondiware		"	
17. Gopalganj		"	
18. Jaitpurlan		"	
19. Kalarrban		"	
20. Kanhiwara		Sub-Office	T. O.
21. Katalbodi		Branch-Office	
22. Khawasa		"	
50. Dhankakdi		"	
51. Ganeshganj		"	
52. Khamaria Gosai		"	
53. Madhi		"	
54. Parsiyat Ryt.		"	
55. Sangai		"	

1	2	3	4
56.	Keolari ..	.. Sub-Office	T. O.
57.	Bandeli ..	.. Branch-Office	
58.	Dhutura ..	.. "	
59.	Khapa ..	.. "	
60.	Kudarimaghaon ..	.. "	
61.	Chhapara Pandiya ..	.. "	
62.	Jeonara ..	.. "	
63.	Khairapalari ..	.. "	
64.	Kumhra ..	.. "	
65.	Mohbarra ..	.. "	
66.	Sarekha ..	.. "	
67.	Rumal ..	.. "	
68.	Sunwara ..	.. "	
69.	Ghansore ..	.. Sub-Office	T. O.
70.	Ataria ..	.. Branch-Office	
71.	Beohari ..	.. "	
72.	Binekikala ..	.. "	
73.	Bamni ..	.. "	
74.	Bijjsen ..	.. "	
75.	Ghot Kheda ..	.. "	
76.	Kahani ..	.. "	
77.	Kedarpur ..	.. "	
78.	Katia ..	.. "	
79.	Kindrai ..	.. "	
80.	Manegaon ..	.. "	
81.	Mechla ..	.. "	
82.	Papadi ..	.. "	
83.	Sikara ..	.. "	
84.	Sajpani Dhanora ..	.. "	
85.	Chapara ..	.. Sub-Office	T. O.
86.	Anjanina ..	.. Branch-Office	
87.	Bakhari ..	.. "	
88.	Bhimgath ..	.. "	
89.	Deogaon ..	.. "	
90.	Gohna ..	.. "	
91.	Gorakhapur ..	.. "	
92.	Jhri ..	.. "	

1	2	3	4
93.	Sadak Seoni ..	.. Branch Office	
94.	Sagar ..	.. "	
95.	Birghat ..	.. Sub-Office	
96.	Asa ..	.. Branch Office	
97.	Borikala ..	.. "	
98.	Dharna ..	.. "	
99.	Godegaon ..	.. "	
100.	Malara ..	.. "	
101.	Bamni ..	.. "	
102.	Budbena Kalan ..	.. "	
103.	Dhobisserra ..	.. "	
104.	Khami ..	.. "	
105.	Salhe Khurd ..	.. "	
106.	Hathanapur ..	.. "	
107.	Seoni Budhawari Bazar ..	.. Extra Deptt.	Town Sub-Office
108.	Seoni Town ..	.. "	

Note.—1. T. O.—Telegraph.

2. Information regarding Public Call Office is not available

Source.—Superintendent of Post Offices, Chhindwara Division.

APPENDIX B—III

Situation of Rest House, Circuit House, etc.

S. No.	Name of Tahsil	Situation of rest house etc.	Category of Accommodation	Situation on new road
1.	Seoni Tahsil	Circuit House, Seoni	4 Suits	Nagpur-Jabalpur Rd. in km. 603/4.
2.	"	Rest house Seoni	"	"
3.	"	R. H. at Barghat	2 Suits	Seoni-Balaghat Rd. in Km. 17.8.
4.	"	R. H. at Behnas.	"	" 48.10.
5.	"	R. H. at Kanhiwara	"	Seoni-Mandla Rd. in Km. 27.4.
6.	"	R. H. at Keolari	"	" 53.10 Km.
7.	"	R. H. at Ugli	"	Keolari-Ugli Rd. 22.10. Km
8.	"	R. H. at Ari	"	Seoni-Katangi Rd. 27/10 Kms.
9.	"	R. H. at Kweai	"	On Nagpur-Jabalpur Rd. in 637/8 Km.
10.	"	R. H. at Chhapara	"	" in 573/4 Km.
11.	"	R. H. at Khawasa	"	" in 641/10 Km.
12.	Lakhnadon Tahsil	R. H. at Lakhnadon	"	" in 505/4 Km.
13.	"	R. H. Dhuma	"	" in 523/10 Km.
14.	"	R. H. Ghnsore	"	On L. K. G. Road 391/10
15.	"	R. H. at Kahani	"	L. K. G. Road in 22/2

APPENDIX B—IV

Location of Nyaya Panchayats

Seoni Tahsil	Lakhnadon Tahsil
1. Bandol	1. Dhoma
2. Chandori Khurd	2. Sanai Dongri
3. Phulara	3. Sihara
4. Tighra	4. Lakhnadon
5. Kanhiwara	5. Adegaon
6. Bhoma	6. Madi
7. Gopalganj	7. Chhapara
8. Khawasa	8. Bhimgarh
9. Kurai	9. Chamari
10. Ghabisri	10. Gorakhpur
11. Badalpar	11. Sagar
12. Khera	12. Kahani
13. Keolari	13. Ghansor
14. Kherranji	14. Shikara
15. Ugli	15. Bijasen
16. Sarekha Kalan	16. Kedarpur
17. Pandiya Chhapara	17. Ghanora
18. Barghat	18. Sunbara
19. Bori Kalan	19. Kudari
20. Ari	
21. Ghapara	
22. Malara	
23. Astha	
24. Gharu Kalan	

APPENDIX-B-V
Freedom Fighters of the District

S.No. (1)	Name of Freedom Fighters (2)	Residence (3)
1.	Smt. Mudde Bai	Khamrith
2.	" Reni Bai w/o Fakira	Khambha
3.	" Dema Bai w/o Jhadoo	Milma
4.	Shri Birjhoo Gond	Murjhor
5.	" Hari Prasad Laxmi Prasad	Seoni
6.	" Ramfal	"
7.	" Abdul Rehman Farookhi	"
8.	" Eemaal Meros	"
9.	" Shankarlal Mannoolal	Barghat
10.	" Omkar Prasad Jiwandas	Seoni
11.	" Kunj Biharilal Khare S/o Gouri Shankar Khare	"
12.	" Abhay Kumar Urf Abboo s/o Gulab Chand Jain	"
13.	" Ravindranath S/o Vishambharnath Bha	"
14.	" Nermada Prasad S/o Kunjilal Agrawal	"
15.	" Komal Chand S/o Hukum Chand Azad	"
16.	" Umashankar S/o Laxaman Prasad Dubey	"
17.	" Keshav Govind Karve	"
18.	" Durga Prasad S/o Shyamlal Soni	"
19.	" Chhotoram S/o Mai Dayal	"
20.	" Ram Prasad S/o Shaligram Pathak	"
21.	" Hiralal Soni	"
22.	" Yadav Chand Buddhilal	"
23.	" Birdhi Chand Hajarilal Goyal	"
24.	" Rahim Khan Sakur Khan	"
25.	" Narayan Bakhshi	"
26.	" Ujjar Lodhi	"
27.	" Tara Chand	"
28.	" Tadoo Mataru	"
29.	" Ramprasad Mahadev Prasad	"
30.	" Sitaram Malhar Rao	"
31.	" Matru Bajji	"
32.	" Jangi Mahiv	"
33.	" Ghadu Gafoor	"
34.	" Bondhya Gajiye	"
35.	" Tulsi Rabji	"

(1)	(2)	(3)
36.	Shri Chhattri Jhanoo	Seoni
37.	" Ganga Badgoo	"
38.	" Gajar Dasoor	"
39.	" Kisanlal S/o Visram Ghaurasia	Barghat
40.	" Narayan Prasad Mitra	Seoni
41.	" Meghraj Rangdas Jethani	"
42.	" Tilak Prasad Ayopadhya Prasad	Nachantabi
43.	Late Shri Jaychand Hajarilal	Seoni
44.	" " Deep Chand S/o Tara Chand Bhoora	"
45.	" " P. D. Jathar	"
46.	" " Padmakar Prabhakar Jathar	"
47.	" " Ambika Prasad S/o Shobharam	"
48.	" " Mohammad Rasool S/o Munsif Mohd.	"
49.	" " Premshankar S/o Shiv Shankar Pandya	"
50.	" " Dr. Shailendra Chakravarti	"
51.	" " Sooraj Prasad Daddoo Soni	"
52.	" " Molvi Akbool Ahmad	"
53.	" " Durga Shankar Kripa Shankar hta	"
54.	" " Jawwar Khan Kanhiwada	"
55.	" " Pille Baboo	"
56.	" " Shiv Prasad Verma	"
57.	" " Gulab Chand Sangit Premi	"
58.	" " Baboo Bhimsen	"
59.	" " Thakur Phool Singh	"
60.	" " Tantoo Rao Bhat	"
61.	Shri M. P. Jathar	Kurai
62.	" Ganesh Prasad S/o Shankar Yadav	Seoni
63.	" Fattao s/o Diwaru	"
64.	" Goochaji s/o Balaji	"
65.	" Nityendranath Sheel	"
66.	" Jethhoolal Sahi	Kanhiwada
67.	" Battilal Dhobi	"
68.	" Chottelal Dhobi	"
69.	" Todlal Awadhiya	Oangatda
70.	" Juggar Gond	"

1	2	3
71.	Shri Ujjar Gond	Gangatda
72.	„ Manaklal Luhar	„
73.	„ Rehman Khan	„
74.	„ Baijnath	„
75.	„ Gafoora	„
76.	„ Visan Mabji	„
77.	„ Bhoora Ratiram	Seoni
78.	„ Buddhu Hannoo	„
79.	„ Basodi Manori	„
80.	„ Lakhan Jhadoo	„
81.	„ Parasram Bamra	„
82.	„ Bhalo Ragha v	„
83.	„ Dadoo Nandlal	„
84.	„ Gulabi Bakshi	„
85.	„ Nagreloo Barati	„
86.	„ Chottelal Ballev	„
87.	„ Jugkar	„
88.	„ Buijnath Prasad Bhole Prasad	„
89.	„ Kapoor Dhimroo	„
90.	„ Jethu Bani	„
91.	„ Sadhuram Fakira	„
92.	„ Jayram Tanoo	„
93.	„ Barelal Shyamlal	„
94.	„ Basaurdi Jiwan	„
95.	„ Samoodas Kangaldas	„
96.	„ Kheda Khursa	„
97.	„ Buddhu Jungle	„
98.	„ Ujjar Kaju	„
99.	„ Chandan Chhattar	„
100.	„ Ho'ya Govind	„
101.	„ Laksi Devi	„
102.	„ Puniya Gond	„
103.	„ Budu Pate	„
104.	„ Bakur Busana	„
105.	„ Doma Hadwati	„

1	2	3
105.	Shri Ishwar Prasad Maharam	Seoni
107.	„ Yakin Khan Maharam	„
108.	„ Durug	„
109.	„ Lalsingh Kanwai	„
110.	„ Dadoo Udai	„
111.	„ Jhikoo Kanwar	„
112.	„ Premsing Ingarsi	„
113.	„ Subhan Jagman	„
114.	„ Gulab Singh Kanhoo	„
115.	„ Girwarsingh Anwarsingh	„
116.	„ Gondal Chandarsa	„
117.	„ Doman Mahan	„
118.	„ Jhunnalal Halke	„
119.	„ Tilak Dewaji	„
120.	„ Sikkur Sukhia	„
121.	„ Barati Nanbeo	„
122.	„ Pooha Wala	„
123.	„ Chhote Khan Ahamad Khan	„
124.	„ Shekh Gafoor Shekh Kasam	„
125.	„ Thanoo Ram Singh	„
126.	„ Chhotha Haresi	„
127.	„ Durga Singh Maloo	„
128.	„ Kamal Dukaria	„
129.	„ Madgaya s/o Soma	„
130.	„ Gulab Sunt Bandha	„
131.	„ Bhadoo Durga	„
132.	„ Kuda Panthoo	„
133.	„ Ghare Amar	„
134.	„ Balloo Durjan	„
135.	„ M. D. Abhayankar	„
136.	„ Kundan Nanhoo	„
137.	„ Umrao Jairam	„
138.	„ Imarat Mangalsi	„
139.	„ Chintaiya Kasiram	„
140.	„ Tantoo Tantoo Dimroo	„

288

SEONI

1	2	3
141.	Shri Nanaji Dana	Seoni
142.	„ Ramsingh	„
143.	„ Khuman Ramlal	„
144.	„ Mukharia Goriya	„
145.	„ Dasoor Jairam	„
146.	„ Jhuria Dhawan	„
147.	„ K'oon Singh Ramsingh	„
148.	„ Mumaria Mangi	„
149.	„ B'lori Hemraj	„
150.	„ Chhinga Amar	„
151.	„ Hiratal Gudma	„
152.	„ Chana Sajal	„
153.	„ Chetandas Barwar	„
154.	„ Anandi Swaroopdas	„
155.	„ Sameo Dhiraaj	„
156.	„ Umar Godhan	„
157.	„ Banjari Dadco	„
158.	„ Amar Kamal	„
159.	„ Dhanoo Dhasi	„
160.	„ Chetrami Luharmar	„
161.	„ Bragwandas Brijlal	„
162.	„ Laloo Sukhanda	„
163.	„ Bohara Barwar	„
164.	„ Bawiya Gariye	„
165.	„ Ujar Manna	„
166.	„ Fakir Ram AmarSingh	„
167.	„ Chhiddoo Chetu	„
168.	„ Saddhu Sohan	„
169.	„ Kanoo Godya	„
170.	„ Sahoo Balaji	„
171.	„ Gulab Singh Rati	„
172.	„ D'uramvir S/o Moolchand Agrawal	„
173.	„ Habibur Rehman S/o A. Rehman	Kanhiwada
174.	„ Harish Chand Maloo	Seoni
175.	„ Mukaji Khawasa	Kurai

1	2	3
176.	Shri Gaya Prasad	Kurai
177.	„ Bukka Bhai	„
178.	„ Gajar Gond	Pindrai
179.	„ Chhatri Gond	Miwla
180.	„ Muka Luhar	Tariya
181.	„ Sakharan Lohar	„
182.	„ Jaysingh	„
183.	Smt. Deva Bai	„
184.	Shri Bariya Luhar Sakharan	„
185.	„ Sitaram Sakharan	„
186.	„ Tukaram	„
187.	„ Premsingh Gond	Hirra
188.	„ Budhu Mahera	„
189.	„ Gondal Gond	„
190.	„ Bhikhoo Ujar Gond	„
191.	„ Dadoo Udai	„
192.	„ Indal Gond	„
193.	„ Surri	„
194.	„ Kojoo Dalli	„
195.	„ Gondal Gond	„
196.	„ Gulsi	Khambha
197.	„ Buddha	Khamrothi
198.	„ Ganga	Khamba
199.	„ Barati	„
200.	„ Nukhiya S/o Sukha	„
201.	„ Mahoo Gond	„
202.	„ Doma Holya	„
203.	„ Anandi Choudhari	„
204.	„ Anandi Gond	Kusai
205.	„ Mukasi Karwahi	„
206.	„ Bakhroo Khusna	Ambadi
207.	„ Budhiya Holiya	Turia
208.	„ Puniya Holiya Gond	„
209.	„ Suresi S/o Nawal Gond	Kurai
210.	„ Goma	Khamba

1	2	3
211.	Sri Bhagriyaji Khawasa	Kurai
212.	„ Kunjilal Patel	Ratanpur
213.	„ Jamman Bhoi	Nasipur
214.	„ Kundan Bhoi	„
215.	„ Inrat Katia	Ugdiwada
216.	„ Bintu	„
217.	„ Mansaram Halwa	Ugli
218.	„ Palvi Halwa	„
219.	„ Guhaji	Pondi
220.	„ Laxman Tukaram	„
221.	„ Trilok Chand Anandi	„
222.	„ Sitaram	NachanWaki
223.	„ Jagatram	„
224.	„ Jageo Pawar	„
225.	„ Fagilwar	„
226.	„ Nan S/o Jiwan Pawar	Gevnara
227.	„ Ram Prasad Divar	Sarandi
228.	„ Buddhu S/o Dargaya	Sindarsi
229.	„ Laxman Radhe	Ghitarra
230.	„ Hansu S/o Ram prasad	Sonkhar
231.	„ Sukhiyaram	Dutera
232.	„ Halmur Pandiya	Ugli
233.	„ Ram Dyal	Ratanpur
234.	„ Sucharoo	Jhitarra
235.	„ Mannoo urf Manaklal	„
236.	„ Nijaha S/o Dabaroo	„
237.	„ Manikram S/o Chetu	„
238.	„ Maloo S/o Kashiram	Malari
239.	„ Mitthulal Mohansingh Thakur	Mera
240.	„ Roopchand S/o Kodoolal Jain	Barghat
241.	„ Chhotelal urf Nervadi Prasad Metethanlal	„
242.	„ Baishwar Prasad	„
243.	„ Maddoolal Visen	Dondiwada
244.	„ Birahu S/o Hanna	Malara
245.	„ Smt. Pagai	„

1	2	3
246.	Shri Nagarchi S/o Barati	Malara
247.	„ Paras Ram S/o Barati	„
248.	„ Bajiram Jewanara	„
249.	„ Dhanoosingh Naroji	„
250.	„ Jummelal S/o Chetram	Singpur
251.	„ Jahari S/o Jagannath	Barikalan
252.	„ Natthulal Narad	Lakhnadon
253.	„ Chhotelal S/o Dulli Yadav	„
254.	„ Shankar Rao S/o Bapooji Bijagore	„
255.	„ Nannhelal Agrawal	Dhuma
256.	„ Kanhaiyalal Ishwari Prasad Tiwari	Lakhnadon
257.	„ Gyan Chand S/o Gandalal Jain	Sihora
258.	„ Chhuttoo S/o Chironja Dhimar	Ghansor
259.	„ Kisan Dasji Mouji	„
260.	Smt. Prabha Bai	„
261.	Shri Devnarayan Nimdeo	„
262.	„ Dhaniram Singh	„
263.	„ Durgasingh Mullu	„

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abul Fazl Akbarnama, Tr. by H. Beveridge, 3 vols. Calcutta, 1907-10.
- do. Ain-i-Akbari, Tr. by M. S. Jarret; Vol. II, Calcutta, 1949.
- Aitchison, C. U. A collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads, Vol. II, Calcutta, 1930.
- Al-Badaoni Muntakhab-ul-Tawarikh, Tr. by W. H. Lowe, Vol. II, Calcutta, 1884.
- Altekar, A.S. State and Government in Ancient India, Banaras, 1949.
- Avasthi Rural Local Self Government in Madhya Pradesh, Nagpur, 1954.
- Barua, B.M. and Sinha Bharhut Inscriptions, Calcutta, 1926.
- Banerjea, Pramtha Nath Public Administration in Ancient India, Calcutta, 1916.
- Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan The History and Culture of Indian People, Vol. III, The Classical Age, Bombay, 1959.
Vol. IV, The Age of Imperial Kanauj, Bombay, 1955.
- Chaudhary, S. B. Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies, Calcutta, 1957.
- Dey, S. K. Panchayati Raj, 1962.
- Dixit, M. G. Madhya Pradesh Ke Puratatva ki Rooprekha, Saugor, University, 1954.
- Elliot, H.M. and Dowson, John History of India as told by its own Historians; 8 Vols., London, 1867-77.
- Erskine, W.C. Narrative of Events Attending the outbreak of Disturbances and the Restoration of Authority in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories in 1857-58.
Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories, Nagpur, 1930.

- Perishat, Mohammad Kasim .. History of the Rise of the Mohammadan Power in India Till the year 1612, Tr. by John Briggs, 4 vols., Calcutta, 1908-10.
- .. Further Papers Relative to the Indian Mutinies, 1857.
- Fleet, J. F. Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. III, Calcutta—1888.
- .. Further Papers Relative to the Mutinies in the East Indies, 1857.
- Hiralal .. Inscriptions in the C. P. and Berar, Nagpur, 1932.
- do. Damoh Deepak, Damoh, 1919.
- do. Madhya Pradesh Ka Itihasa, Kashi, V. S. 1896.
- Hirurkar, N. P. Village Local Self Government in British India, Allahabad, 1929.
- Kalidas Malavikagnimitram.
- Majumdar, R. C. Corporate life in Ancient India, Poona, 1922.
- do Ancient India, Delhi, 1960.
- Majumdar, Roy Choudhary and Dutta. An Advanced History of India, 3 parts, London, 1956-63.
- Majumdar, R. C. and Altekar A. S. The Vakataka-Gupta Age, Delhi, 1960.
- Mirashi, V. V. Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. IV. 2 Parts, Ootacmund, 1955.
- Mishra, D. P. Living An Era, Vol. I, Delhi, 1975.
- .. Madhya Pradesh ke Swadhinata Andolan ka Itihasa, Nagpur, 1956.
- .. Madhya Pradesh Aur Berar ka Itihasa.
- .. Madhya Pradesh Aur Gandhiji, Indore, 1969.
- Mookerjee, R. K. .. The Gupta Empire, Bombay, 1947.
- Nizam-ud-din Ahmad, Khujah .. The Tahaqat-i-Akbari, Tr. by B. De, Vol. III, 3 parts, Calcutta, 1939-40.
- .. Parliamentary Papers Regarding Mutiny in India, Further Papers, No. 9.
- Pandey, N. P. : Transport Geography of Western Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal University 1977.

- Sastri, K. A. Nilkanta .. Age of the Nandas and the Mauryas Banaras, 1952.
- Sarkar, J. N. .. History of Aurangzeb, Vol. V, Calcutta, 1924.
- Shukla, Prayag Dutta .. Madhya Pradesh Ka Itihasa aur Nagpur ke Bhonsle, Bombay, 1930.
- do. Madhya Pradesh Ki Adi Jatiyan.
- Sharma, S. N. .. Seoni-Prachin Avum Arvachin, Seoni, 1961.
- .. Sampurna Gandhi Vangamaya, Vol. XIX.
- Sterndale .. Camp life on the Satpura Range, 1887.
- .. Selections from the Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. II and IV, Nagpur, 1951-1954.
- Tripathi, R. S. .. History of Ancient India, Delhi, 1960.
- .. The Tuzuk-Jahangiri, Tr. by A. Rogers and ed. by H. Beveridge, 2 Vols., Delhi, 1968.
- .. The History of Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh, Nagpur, 1956.
- .. The Cambridge History of India, Vol. IV. Delhi, 1957.
- Wills, C. U. .. The Raj-Gond Maharajas of Satpura Hills, Nagpur, 1933.

II. REPORTS, JOURNALS, GAZETTEERS, etc.

- A Compilation of Important Political Trials in C. P. & Berar.
- Agricultural Statistics (M. P.) 1972, Director of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh
- Annual Reports of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- Annual Report of M. P. Electricity Board, 1976-77.
- Annual Administration Reports of C. P. & Berar and Madhya Pradesh.
- Annual Report of the Local Self Government Department, (Urban) 1958, 59 and 1959-60.
- Banking and Monetary Statistics, Section I, II, III.

- Betul District Gazetteer, 1907.
- C. P. & Berar Administration Reports.
- C. P. Administration Reports from 1862 to 1906.
- C. P. Police Administration Report, 1873.
- Central Provinces District Gazetteer, Seoni District,
- (a) Vol. A, Allahabad, 1907.
- (b) Vol. B, Nagpur, 1927.
- Census of India, 1971, Paper I of 1971, (Provisional Population Totals).
- Census of India, Paper No. I of 1962.
- Census of India 1941, 1951, 1961.
- Chhindwara District Gazetteer, 1907.
- Comments on Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Act, VII, 1962.
- Dasvin Panchvarshiya Pashu Janaganana Par Prativedan, M. P., April, 1966 (Pt. I), Gwalior, 1973.
- Directory of Small Scale Industries in M. P. in the Unorganised Sector 1969 (Industries Department).
- Directory of Small Scale Industries in M. P. (Registered Factories), 1965 (Industries Department).
- District Census Hand Book, 1961, Seoni District, Bhopal, 1974.
- District Employment Market Reports.
- Epigraphica Indica.
- General Administration Report of the Central Provinces for the years 1940-41 to 1950-51.
- The Gazetteer of the Central Provinces, Nagpur, 1870.
- Guide Notes on the Training of Officials and Non-officials in Panchayati Raj, 1962.
- Gyarahvin Panchavarshiya Pashu Janaganana Par Prativedan, M. P., April 1972 Pt. I, Gwalior, 1976.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. I. XXII, 1908.
- do. Vol. XXII, New Edition, Oxford, 1908.
- do. Vol. XIII, 1908.
- do. Provincial Series, Central Provinces, Calcutta 1908.
- Indian Archaeology -A Review.
- Indian Antiquary.
- Industrial Statistics (Directorate of Industries, (M. P.) 1977.
- Journal of the Numismatic Society of India.
- Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. VI, 1837.
- Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vol. VII.
- Krishi Avum Pashudhan Sankhyiki (Pt. I) 1967-68, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, M. P.
- List of Industrial Establishments in M. P. 1970 and 1975 (Labour Department).
- Livestock Census of M. P., April, 1956, Gwalior, 1962.
- Madhya Pradesh Shram Sankhyiki Pustika, 1971, (Labour Department).
- M. P. State Primary Census Abstract, 1971 (Final Figures-Cyclostyled-Copy).
- Pocket Compendium of Seoni District.
- Pocket Compendium of District Statistics, Seoni, 1963, (Department of Economics and Statistics).
- Prices and Wages in India, Superintendent, Government Printing, Calcutta 1919.
- Quarterly Journal of the Local Government Institute, Bombay, 1947.
- Reconstruction of Local Self-Government, Nagpur, 1939.
- Report on the Land Revenue Settlement of Seoni District, W. B. Thomson, 1867.
- Report of the Urban Local Self-Government Committee, 1957.
- Report of the Rural Local Self-Government Committee, 1957.
- Report of the Congress Village Panchayat Committee, 1954.

Report on the Working of the Village Panchayats in Central Provinces and Berar, 1941.

Report of the Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation, 1972.

Report on the Administration of Central Provinces and Berar, 1864-65 to 1945-56.

Reserve Bank of India Bulletins.

Resolutions Reviewing the Report of the working of the Municipal Committees in Central Provinces and Berar from 1922-23 to 1926-27, 1928-1932, 1933, 1934, 1940, 1941.

Resolutions Reviewing the Report of the working of the District Councils in the Central Provinces and Berar from 1911-12 to 1920-21, 1926-27 to 1933-34, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938.

Season and Crop Reports of M. P. for the years 1957 to 1968-69.

Seoni Zila Audyogik Vikas ki Sambhavanayen, 1965. (published Industries Dept.)

Settlement Reports of Seoni District.

Souvenir of All India Panchayat Parishad, 1959.

Statistical Table Relating to Banks in India, 1966 and 1968.

Statistics of Rainfall, Area, Production and Trade of Agricultural Commodities in Madhya Pradesh, Vol. II (1909-10 to 1946-47), Nagpur, 1951

Statistical Abstract of Madhya Pradesh, 1957-58 and 1961-62.

The Tribes of Madhya Pradesh, The Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The Madhya Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1961.

The Madhya Pradesh Janapada Manual, Part I, Nagpur, 1955.

The Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962.

Vidyut Sewa Ank (Bhari Udyog Upbhogta Sangh).

INDEX

ABDUL HAJEE 30

Abdul Hamid Lahori 31

Abdur Rahman 30

Abul Fazl 26

Achalpur 25

Achhavata 23

Acts

Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, (1950) 156

Agriculturists Loans Act, (1884) 85, 101

Arms Act, (1959) 14

Civil Procedure Act 164

C. P. Courts Act, (1904) 167

C. P. & Berar Local Self Govt. Act, 188, 190, 195, 196, 200

C. P. & Berar Primary Education Act (1920) 214

C. P. & Berar Municipalities Act, (1882, 1887, 1927, 1939) 188, 190 191.

C. P. & Berar Panchayat Act, 178, 200

C. P. & Berar Prohibition Act, 234

Employees' Provident Fund Act, (1952) 99

Factories Act, (1948) 93, 99

Govt. of India Act, (1919, 1935) 192, 240

Indian Council Act, (1901) 240

Land Improvement Loans Act, 85

Land Alienation Act, (1916) 156

Maternity Benefit Act, (1961) 99

Minimum Wages Act, (1948) 99

Motor Transport Workers Act, (1961) 99.

M. P. Agricultural Ryots and Tenants Act, (1950) 156

M. P. Bhodan yagna Act, (1953) 160

M. P. Games Act, (1935) 14

M. P. Janapad Act, (1948) 198

M. P. Industrial Relations Act, (1960) 99

M. P. Madhya Nisedh Vidhi Nirasan Adhyadesh, 234

M. P. Municipal Act, (1961) 190, 191

M. P. Public Trust Act, (1951) 239

M. P. Panchayat Act, (1962, 1963) 178, 197, 202

M. P. Shops and Establishment Act, (1958) 99

M. P. Weights (Enforcement) Act. (1956, 1959) 114

Payment of Bonus Act, (1965) 99

Pleaders Act, 179

Postal Act (1837) 119

Punjab Municipal Act, (1862) 188

Registration of Death and Birth Act, (1909) 220.

Relief of Indebtedness Act, 156

Tenancy Act (1883) 148, 154, 155

Traffic in Women and Girls Act (1956) 58

Untouchability (Offences) Act (1955) 238

Workmen Compensation Act, (1948) 99

Adegaon 79, 90, 211, 251

Agnimitra 22

Agrawal Omkardas 100

Agri 10

Ain-I-Akbari 31

Akara 23

Akbarnama 26

Akbar Shan 33

Alha and Udai 26

Alikatta 12

All India Congress Committee Session 42,

Allahabad 126

Allopathic medicine, 219
 Amagarh 12
 Aman Das 27
 Amarkantak Hill (Shahdol Distt.) 3
 Amarwara 2, 243, 246
 Amodagarh 26
 Anglo-Indian 243
 Antarwani 8
 Anupa 23
 Appa Sahib 146
 Arjun Das 27
 Ari 10
 Asaf Khan 28, 31
 Asmaka 23
 Asoka 22
 Assam 48
 Aurangzeb 32
 Avanti 23
 Ayurved 219
BABARIA 5
 Basic Education 215
 Backward Classes and Tribes
 Advancement 235
 Badalpur 5
 Badshah-nama 31
 Bakht Shah (Bakt Buland Shah) 31
 Bakhata war Singh Dadu 100
 Bagh 5
 Baiga 46
 Balaghat 1, 5, 23, 44, 48, 91, 115,
 180, 182, 183, 185
 Balajimukund Tole 39
 Bandarjhir 5
 Bandel 1, 18, 173
 Banjari 117
 Banjari Tank 85
 Barghat 1, 5, 14, 82, 96, 113, 140,
 173, 220, 244, 245, 247.
 Barghat Block 78
 Bari 5
 Bauxite 7, 8.
 Bawanthari 91
 Beda Nala 14
 Bedar Bakht 32
 Behrai 2
 Begarwani 229
 Benakataka 23
 Bangaji Bhatonea 35
 Bengal Nagpur Railway 110, 219
 Beohari 83
 Berar 44
 Balaghat 48
 Bhagora 2
 Bhagwandin (Mahatma) 39
 Bhairothan 114, 252
 Bandara 5, 243
 Bharati Gosain 35
 Bharia-Bhumia 46
 Bharukatch 4
 Bhave, Acharya Vinoba 41, 160
 Bheraghat (Bhedaghat) 4, 5
 Bhilai 91
 Bhimagarh 83
 Bhoja Varman 26
 Bhoma 244, 247
 Bhoodan Yaugna 160
 Bhopal 27, 160, 180, 181, 183
 Bhopal Roo 100
 Bhosla 146
 Bichua 8
 Bidarai 2
 Bajapur 30
 Bina valley 2
 Birari 117
 Birju Bhoi 40
 Bir Narayan 29
 Bir Singh Deo 27
 Bomakatia 78
 Brien O. Major, 35
 Brihatratha 22
 British 164
 British Government 147, 164
 Buddharaja 25
 Burhan Shah 33

Burman ghat 4
CALCUTTA 111
 Cambay 3
 Cawnpore 37
 Central Provinces 44, 115, 172, 219,
 220, 242, 243
 Central Provinces and Berar 234, 240
 Central Provinces Banking Enquiry
 Committee 102
 Centeal Provinces Commerce and
 Industry 243
 Central provinces Legislative council
 Rules 242
 Central Provinces and Berar Mining
 Association 243
 Chakki-khamaria. 82, 91
 Chalukyas 25
 Champion 9
 Chandai 14
 Chandarpur 13
 Chandela (s) 26, 27
 Chanda raja 32
 Chand Sultan Shah 33
 Chanora 140
 Chaonri 11
 Charles Hobhouse, 190
 Chatwa (Jatwa) 31
 Changarh 35
 Chaurai 2
 Chedi 25
 Chhakk-kha marla 83
 Chhapara 1, 2, 5, 10, 48, 82, 83, 90, 91
 93, 95, 97, 100, 110, 113, 115, 173,
 203, 208, 211, 219, 244, 245, 247, 249
 Chhapara Police Station 18
 Chhattar Shah 29
 Chhattisgarh-Guddapah 7
 Chanwari 1
 Chhichbund 65
 Chhindwara 119, 180, 182, 209, 220, 241
 Chichwah 3
 Chilpi Group 5, 7
 Chirchira 114
 Chirrau, 114
 Chhindwara 1, 23, 48, 115, 119, 182,
 209, 220, 241
 Chhindwara district 2, 23, 89, 100
 Chourai 90
 Church of Scotland Mission 207
 Colonel Neill 58
 Community Development Programme 130
DAHALA 25
 Dalhousie 37
 Damoh 27
 Debt Relief regulation of 1963, 238
 Deccan Trap 7
 Deogarh 26, 31, 55
 Dhankodi. 82
 Dhannlal Diwakar 39
 Dhanora 2, 83, 203, 229
 Dhapa 117
 Dhapara 83
 Dharmadhikari Dada 160
 Dhobi-Sarra 83
 Dhooma 2, 211, 254
 Dhumma 115, 117, 211, 254
 Dighori 254
 Diguria Chapar 91
 Diler khan 30
 District Council and Local Board 194
 Dongartal (Taluka) 30, 32, 33
 Doodhee at Fatehpur 30
 Dungaria 47
 Durga Shankar Mehata 39, 40, 42
 Durgawati 28
 Durjan Shah 31
ELECTIONS 42, 240, 244, 246
 Epidemics 222
 Erskine W. C. 38
 European 243
 Eye Diseases 225
FAUNA 14

Five Years Plans.—

First-66, 80

Second-66, 94, 239

Third-94, 213

Fourth-239

Fifth-94, 117

Flag Satyagraha 39

Flora 9

Free dom Movement 39

GADARWARA 117

Gandhiji (Mahatma) 39, 42

Ganga 4

Gangai nala 10

Gangarkund 14

Gaolin 79

Garchiroli 5

Garha-Katanga 28

Garha kingdom 27

Garha-Mandla 1, 26

Gastroenteritis 225

Gauda 23

Gautamiputra 23

Ghamari 83

Ghanora 173

Ghansore 1, 2, 3, 10, 16, 18, 20,
30, 48, 82, 83, 96, 108, 117, 173, 203,
219, 220, 254

Girijanandan Sharma 39

Gram Sabha 202

Godawari 3

Golab Singh 37

Gond (s) 23, 53, 146, 212, 235

Gond dynasties 26

Gondi 48

Gondia 119

Gond kingdom 1, 26

Gondwana 27, 28

Gopalganj 11

Gora Prof. 160

Gorakhpur 114

Gordi 48

Governor Council 1920 to 1937, 242

Government College, Seoni 216

Govind Das, Seth 41, 160

Gowari 114

Grow More Food Campaign 1944, 65

Gulab Chand 100

Gunj-Seoni 93

Gurda 2

Gurera 5, 11

Gwarighat 4

HALBE OR HALBI 46

Halon

Hammira Varman 6

Hardaul lala 31

Harduli 114

Hari Singh 29

Hathigarh 16

Hinai 114

Hindi 48, 49

Hindu (s) 45, 206, 233

Hirri 2, 3, 5, 14, 21

Hirri block 11

Homeopathic Dispensaries 229

Hoshangabad 207, 243

Hulera Deo 51

IBRAHIM 28

Independence 15 August 43

Indian Excise Committee (1905-06)
233.

Indian Medical Association, Seoni 231

Indian Red Cross Society 232

Indo-Scythian 21

Infant Mortality 223

JABALPUR 1, 3, 23, 48, 75, 79, 111,

115, 119, 180, 181, 184, 207, 240,

241, 242, 243.

Jahangir 29

Jagirdars 164

Jam 111

Jam area 15

Janapad Sabhas 191, 197

Janapad Enquiry Committee (1952) 197

Janawarkeda 91

Jansangh 246

Janapad Panchayat 203

Jatar P. D. 40, 41, 42

Jatwa 31

Javnara 91

Jeonara 114

Jhujhar Singh 29

KAHANI 90

Kahani-Khas 139, 229

Kaka Kalelkar 41

Kalachuris 25

Kalbori 173

Kamath H. V. 41

Kamakapur 8

Kamptee 111

Kanera 2

Kanhi-Bara 96

Kanhiwara 1, 83, 111, 173

Kaniwada 119

Karabih 145

Kara-Manikpur 28

Kariapahar 2, 10, 11, 16

Kategaon 30

Katangi (Tahsil) 1, 44, 115, 147

Kedarpur 37, 117

Keolari 2, 17, 18, 19, 20, 48, 79, 80, 98,
111, 114, 119, 203, 211, 219, 245, 247.

Keolari range 10, 16

Kariapahar 10

Kesri-Shah 30

Kewalari 98, 173

Kesari-Shah 29, 23

Kevlari 5, 98, 173

Kewari 173

Khadag Bharti 37

Khamaria 7, 11, 48, 100

Khandasa 8

Khanhiwara 83

Khan Dauran 31

Khapa 8

Khare N. B. 42

Kharji 26, 27

Khatik 46

Khaukra 91

Khawasa 13, 79, 98, 111

Khawasa-Pitesur 11

Kherla (Betul) 26

Khet Singh 100

Khud kasht 149

Khurai (Sagar District) 31

Khurali 30

Kohgarh 26

Kokalla II 25

Kori 46

Krishna Raja 25

Kshaharata 22

Kshtrapa 23

Kshtrapa Chashtana of the Kardamaka
23.

Kshatrpa Coins 23

Kurai 1, 10, 79, 91, 98, 108, 111, 173,
203.

Kurai Ranges 85

Kuria 140

Kutas of Achalpur 25

LAKHNADON 1, 2, 3, 19 44, 45, 46,
47, 48, 80, 82, 83, 87, 90, 91, 96,
110, 113, 114, 115, 127, 140, 141, 150,
173, 179, 189, 194, 203, 209, 211, 219,
229, 235, 244, 246, 253, 255.

Lakhnadon Block 80

Lakhnadon Janapad Panchayat 205

Lakhnadon Tahsil 72, 210

Lakhanwara 114

Lakshman Raja II 25

Lakshmikarna 25

Lamajoti 16

Lameta Formation 7

Land Revenue Code (1954) 197

Local-Self Government Enquiry Com-
mittee (1935) 191.

Leukie Mr. 34

- Legislative Assembly (1937) 243
 Leterite 7
 Local Bodies 121
 Lodhi Family 36
 Lok Sabha (1957, 1962, 1967 and 1971) 241
 Lova Sarra 114
MACHAREWA 2
 Madai 60
 Madhya Pradesh 160, 214
 Madhavasena 22
 Madhya Pradesh Games Rules (1962) 14
 Madhya Pradesh Shooting Rule (1963) 14
 Madhukar Shah 29
 Mahakoshal 160, 214
 Mahar or Mehra 212
 Maharaj Shah 31
 Mahishmati 25
 Mahoba 26, 28
 Magaon 91
 Mahajan 100
 Maharaj Shah 31
 Maharashtra 73
 Maikali Range 3
 Majid Khan 34
 Makorjhir 117
 Malgujar(i)(s) 100, 101, 149, 151
 Malik Makbujas 149
 Malpathar 117
 Malarial Fever 224
 Malwa 22
 Mandla 1, 48, 79, 115, 180, 181, 240, 241, 243, 245, 246, 248.
 Mandla District 91
 Mangaldas Pakwasa 43
 Manganese 8
 Manori Hill 2
 Maratha (s) 126, 146, 164, 187
 Marathi 49
 Matia 51
 Mauryas 21
 Medical Facilities 219
 Mehtar 46
 Megasthenes 3
 Meteorite 8
 Mauryan 22
 Middle School Education 215
 Mishra Dwarka Prasad 41
 Miana Afghans of Sironj 28
 Mirzapur 115
 Mohamad Amin Kdan 1
 Mohamad Imam Khan 36
 Montague Chelmsford 190
 M. P. Sarvodya Conference 160
 Mudara 114
 Mudde (Pruddle Bai) Bai 40
 Mughal Emperor of Aurangzeb 30
 Muhammadan 243
 Muhammad Amin Khan 34
 Muhammad Khan 34
 Muhammad Shah 33
 Muhammad Zaman Khan 34
 Mukar Luhar 40
 Mungwani 90, 100
 Muria 49
 Murlidhar Khazanchi Lala 100
 Murlidhar Shukla 39, 40
 Murwara 48
 Muslim(s) 27, 206, 219
 Muslim Rulers 188
NAGANDEORI 83
 Nagpur 48, 78, 91, 110, 111, 115, 119, 145, 160, 164, 183
 Nagpur District 1
 Nagpur Session 39
 Nahapana 22
 Nainpur 119, 145
 Najar Khan 37
 Narayan 28
 Narinda Shah 30
 Narmada 2, 3, 5, 10, 18
 Narsimhapur 1, 180, 181

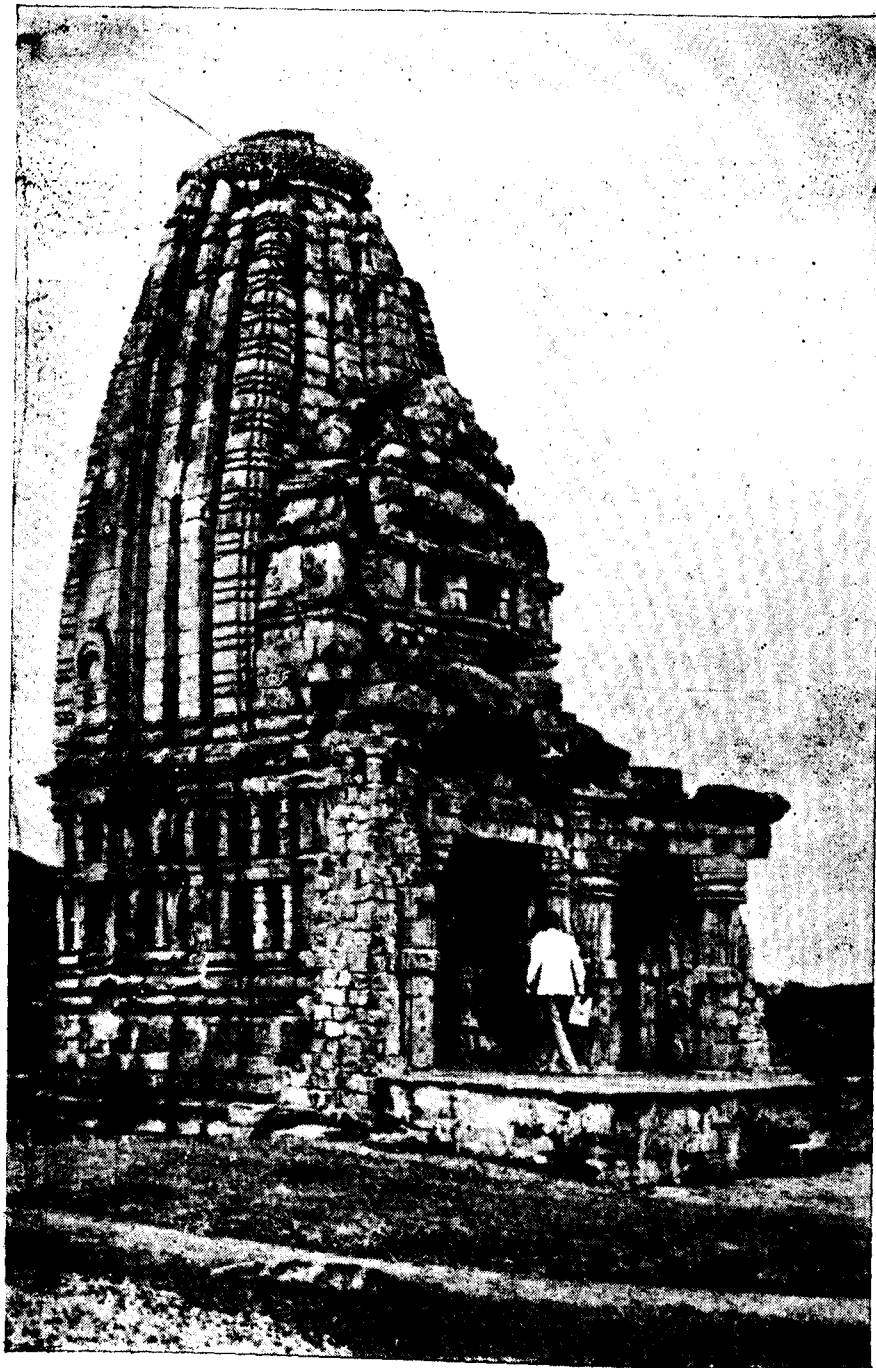
- New Delhi 231
 Nizam Shah 31
 Non-Co-operative Movement 39
 Nyaya Panchayats 178, 202
ONKARDAS Rai Bahadur Lala 100
 Omkareshwar 4
 Oxley Captain 18
PADRIGANJ 5
 Palari 111, 119
 Panchdhar Valley 2
 Panini 3
 Pandey Kashi Prasad 41
 Paramardideva 26
 Parisi 48
 Pauni 5
 Patan 2, 79, 90
 Patels 164
 Patnaya k. Dr. 160
 Pearson 12
 Pench 10, 12, 14
 Periplus 3
 Peshwa Balaji Rao 31, 187
 Pindaris 35
 Pipardon 10
 Pipardehi 2
 Piparwani 90
 Pipriya Done 98
 Police Hospital Seoni 219
 Polytechnic School 217
 Potla 8
 Prabhakar dhundiraj 39
 Pradhan 212, 235
 Praja Socialist 246, 248
 Pravarsena II 23
 Prem Narayan 29, 30
 Pre-Primary Education 213, 214
 Primary Health Centre Dhanora 228
 Primary Health Centre, Ghanore 228
 Prohibition 233
 Ptolemy 3
 Purnan Rao Pawar Seth 100
 Pushyamitra 22
 Puranas 23
 Putarra 2
QUIT INDIA STRUGGLE 42
RAGHUJI 32
 Raghuji III 35
 Raghuji Bhausa 33
 Raigarh 79
 Rainfall 19
 Raipur 115
 Raja Birsingh Deo of Orchha 29
 Raja Salivahan of Rath 28
 Raj Khan 32
 Raja Bhau of Sikandra 37
 Raja Sati Prasad 37
 Rajola 256
 Ram Chandra the Raja of Rewa 27
 Ramnagar 29
 Raja of Deogarh 30
 Rampuri 16
 Ram Rajya Parishad 246
 Ram Ratan Kaur 33
 Ram Singh 1, 32
 Ramtek 1
 Rano Bai 40
 Rashtrakutas 25
 Ravi Shankar Shukla 41, 43
 Republican Party 249
 Rewa 182
 Rishvadatta 22
 Roberts A. A. 164
 Royal Commission (1915, 1918) 190
 Roomal Tank 65
 Rudraman II 23
 Rudrasena I 23
 Rudra Sipa II 23
 Rukhar 9, 10, 91
 Rumal 15,
 Rumal Dam 5
 Runijhuny 14
 Rup Chand 100, 207
 Ryotwari 149, 151

- SAILA** 59
Sagar 3, 5, 27, 74, 116, 150, 151, 152, 156, 157, 159, 191
Sagar Dam 5
Sahukars 100
Sakata 13
Sakhraj 37
Seoni 37
Saka-Kshatrapas 22
Saliwara 2
Salt Satyagraha 40
Sanchi Stupa 22
Sangram Shah 27
Sanitation 232
Sankaragana 25
Sarekha 21, 256
Satakarni 22
Satavahanas 22, 23
Satpura 3, 5, 10
Satpura Plateau 1, 2, 79
Satpura Thermal Power Station 91
Sausar Group 7
Second World War (1939) 42
Seiman 41
Sellori 7
Seoni 1, 2, 10, 18, 20, 21, 44, 47, 78, 82, 83, 85, 90, 91, 93, 112, 119, 141, 145, 147, 150, 173, 180, 181, 182, 185, 189, 192, 194, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 219, 229, 231, 239, 240, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247, 248, 251, 252.
Seoni Block 140, 203
Seoni District 5, 101, 115, 146 194, 195, 203, 231, 234,
Seoni Janapad Panchayat 204
Seoni Janapad Sabha 197
Seoni Haveli 3
Seoni Tahsil 45, 47, 100, 178
Seoni Town 10, 21, 103, 111, 192, 257
Shahzeda 28
Sharda Chandra Bose 41
Sher 2
Shikara 117
Shivraj Singh 31
Shukrawani Chowk (Gandhi Chowk) 39
Sidruddin 41
Sil N. N. 41
Silari 8
Sindhi 49
Sikandar Lodi 27
Sleeman Major 36
Small Pox 224
Socialist Party 247
Sona Rani 26
Sonawani 2
Soner 2
Songarhi 33
Sriram Sao, Seth 100
State Aid to Industries 94
State Government 121, 141
Subhash Chandra Bose, Netaji 41
Sukhan Das (Sangin Das) 27
Sultan Ibrahim Lodi 28
Surveyor General of India 44
TAIRAHIA 2
Tatya Tope 37
Telia-Kandiai 16
Temperature 19
Temur 2
Thakur of Dhuma 36
Thekadars(i) 148, 151
Thomson Captain 37, 147
Thurraka 27
T. Mottee 105
Trailokya Varmen 26
Triodigneiss 8
Tripuri 25
Tuberculosis 224
Tumsar 5
Turiya 41
UGLI 2, 10, 12, 78, 87, 178
Ugli Blocks 16
Ulat Behari 13
Ulatbehari 10
Urdu 49

- Ushavadatta** 22
Ushridams 5
VAKATAKAS 23
Vatapi 25
Vidarbha 22, 23
Vidisha 22, 23
Village Panchayat 200
Village Sanitation 189
Vindhya Sakti 23
Vinjha 23
Vir Bhan 27
Vira Varma 26
WADDINGTON CAPTAIN 38
Wainganga 2, 3, 5, 12, 18, 21, 23 34, 91, 182.
Wamanthadi 14
Wardha 32
West W. D. Dr. 7
Western Kshatrapas 23
YUDHARAJA NANNARAJA 25
Yuvarajadeva 1 25
Yasahkarna 25



Dal Sagar Tank, Soni
(Courtesy : publicity Deptt. M. P.)



One of the ancient Shaivite and Shakta temples. Ashta, Seoni
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Eight-armed daity with elephant symbol (Seoni Museum 1989)
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Ganesh-Nri-varaha and other images under the sacred tree-Lakhnadon

(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Hanuman and other images of Gond period excavated from Bilsapur (Seoni Museum 1989)

(Courtesy: Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Fortress of Adegion, near Lakhnadon
(Courtesy: Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



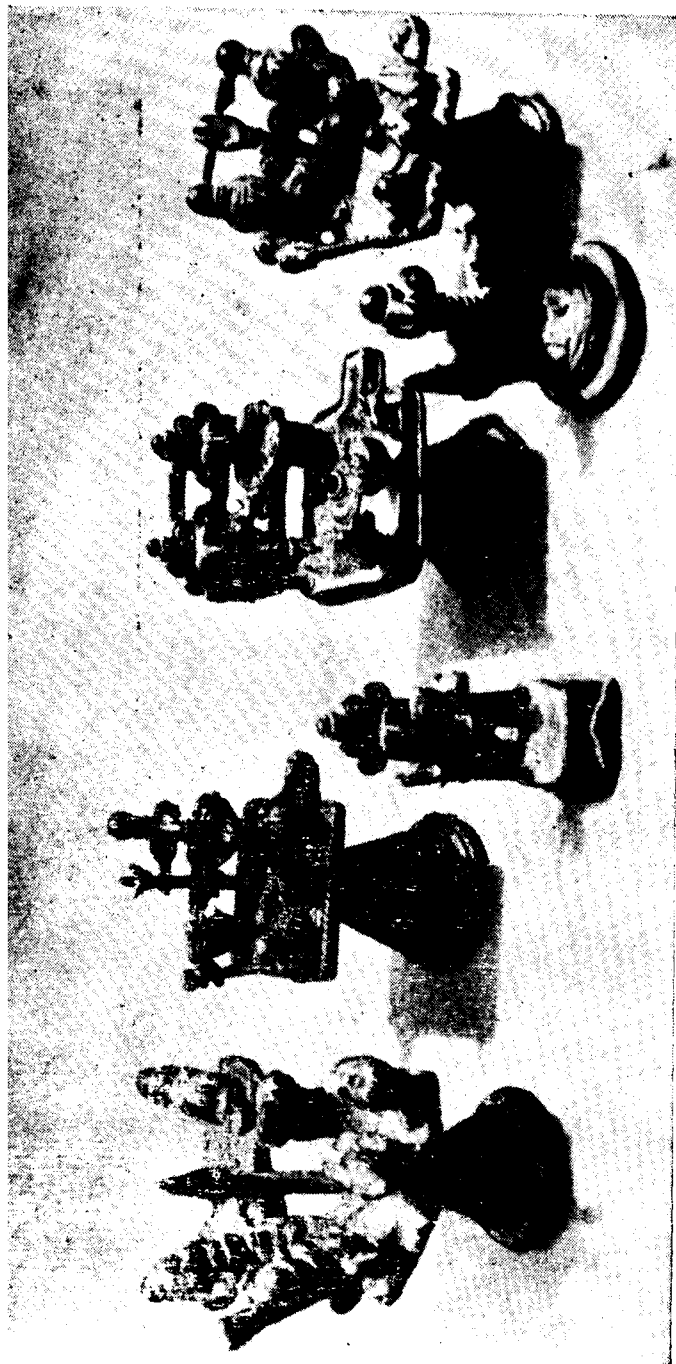
Main gate of Adegion fortress
(Courtesy; Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Interior view Adegaoon fortress
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



A fortress of the Gond period, Chhapara
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Bronze alloy casts of Shiva family excavated from Bisapur (Seoni Museum 1989)
(Courtesy; Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Rishabhdeo and other Jain images collected from Lakhnadon
(Museum, Seoni, 1989)
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M.P.)



Rishabhdeo and other Jain images on the door lintel shifted from Dal Sagar Tank Site
(Seoni Museum Collection, 1988)

(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Interior view of the cavern of Mathhogra near Bhairon than, Lakhnadon.

(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



A Gond Woman
 (Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute, M.P.)



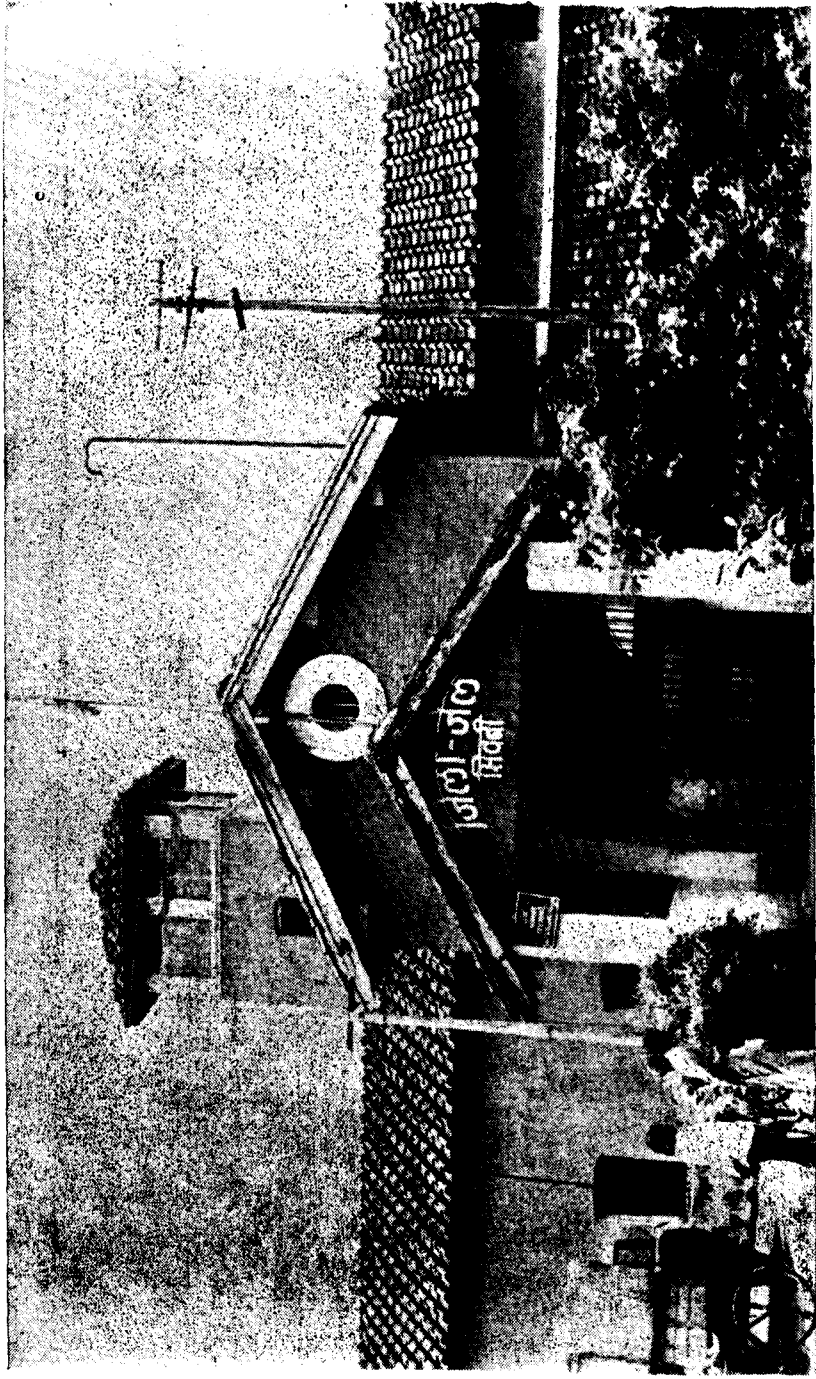
A Gond
 (Courtesy ; Tribal Research Institute M. P.)



Saila Dance.
(Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute, M. P.)



Ahir Dance
(Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute, M. P.)



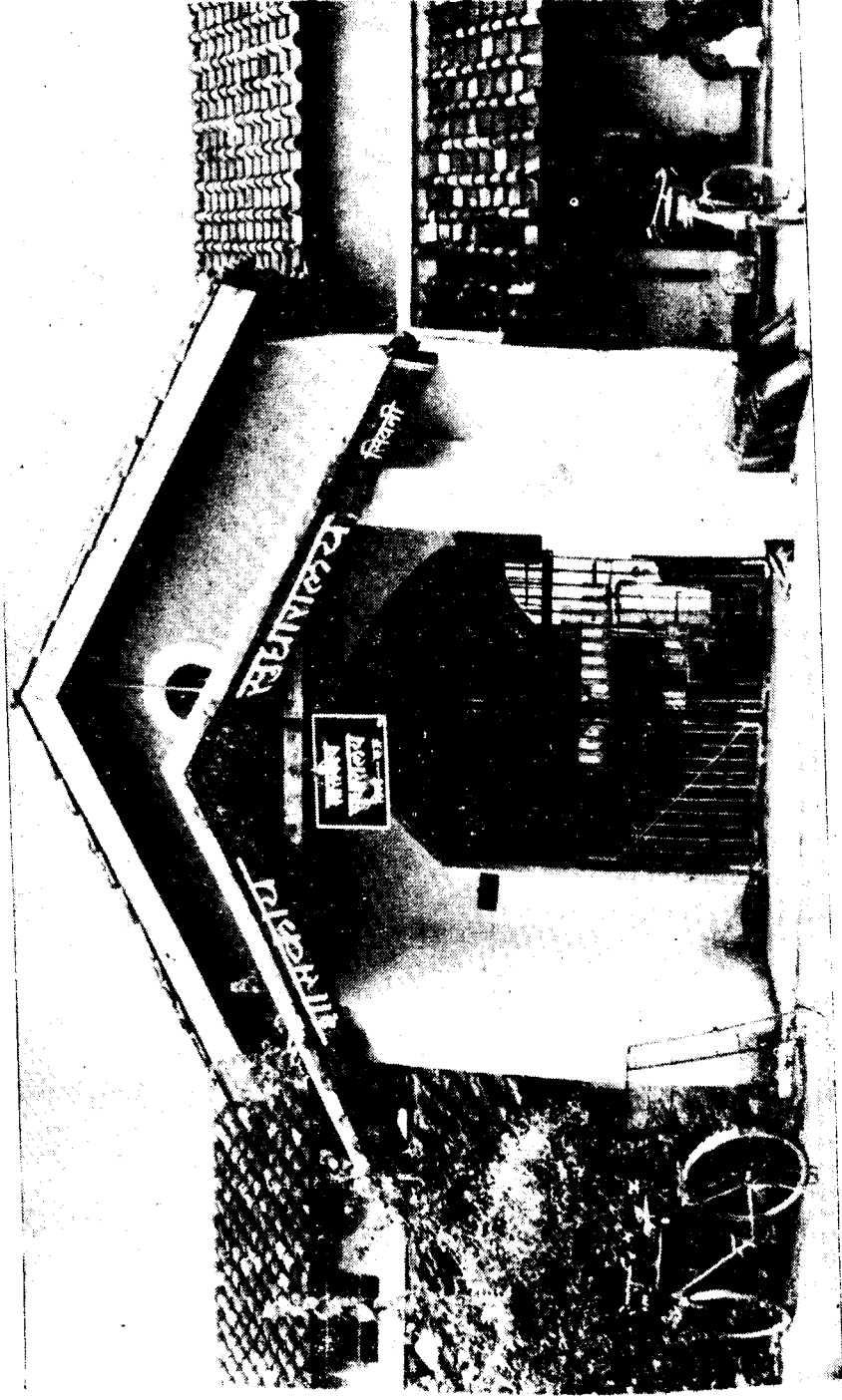
District Jail, Secni

(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)

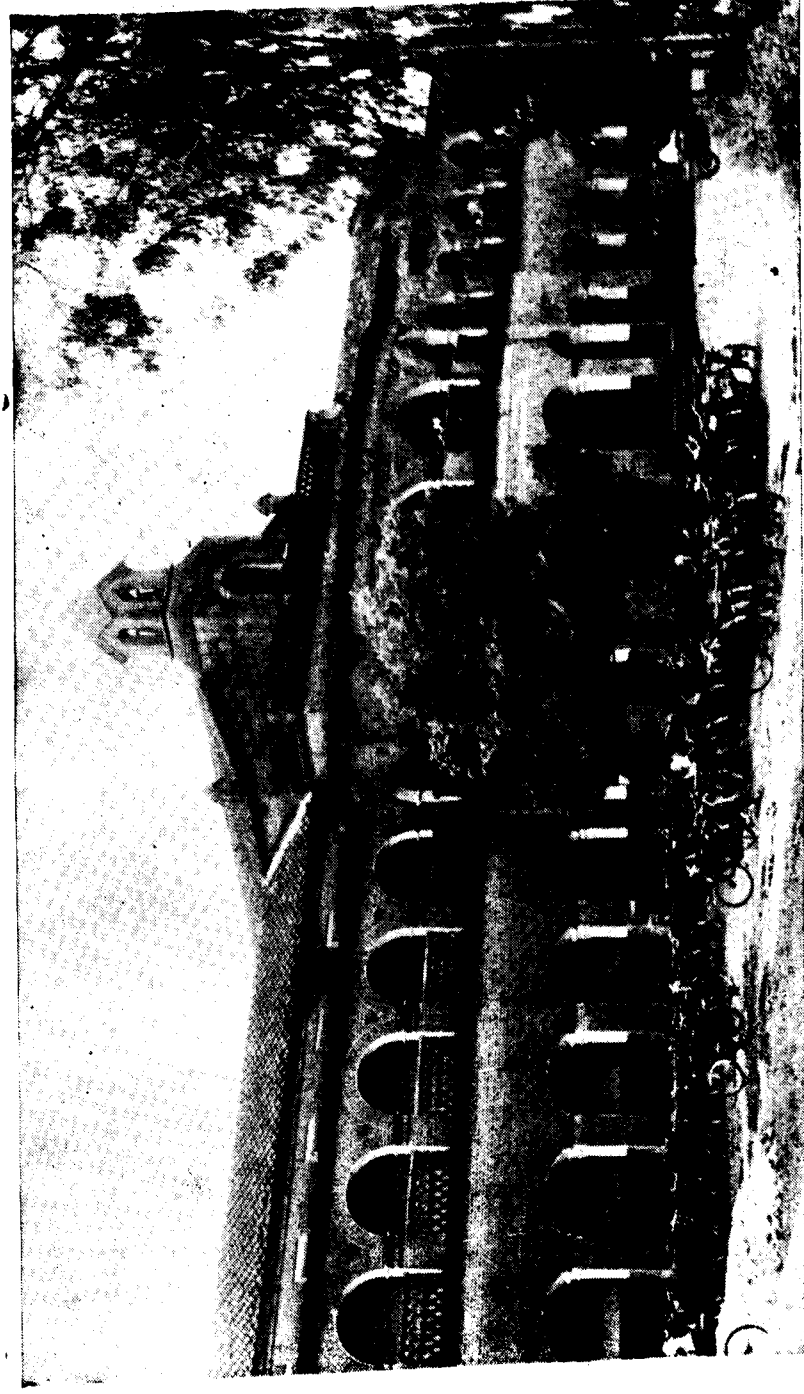


Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose memorial cell (District Jail, Seoni)

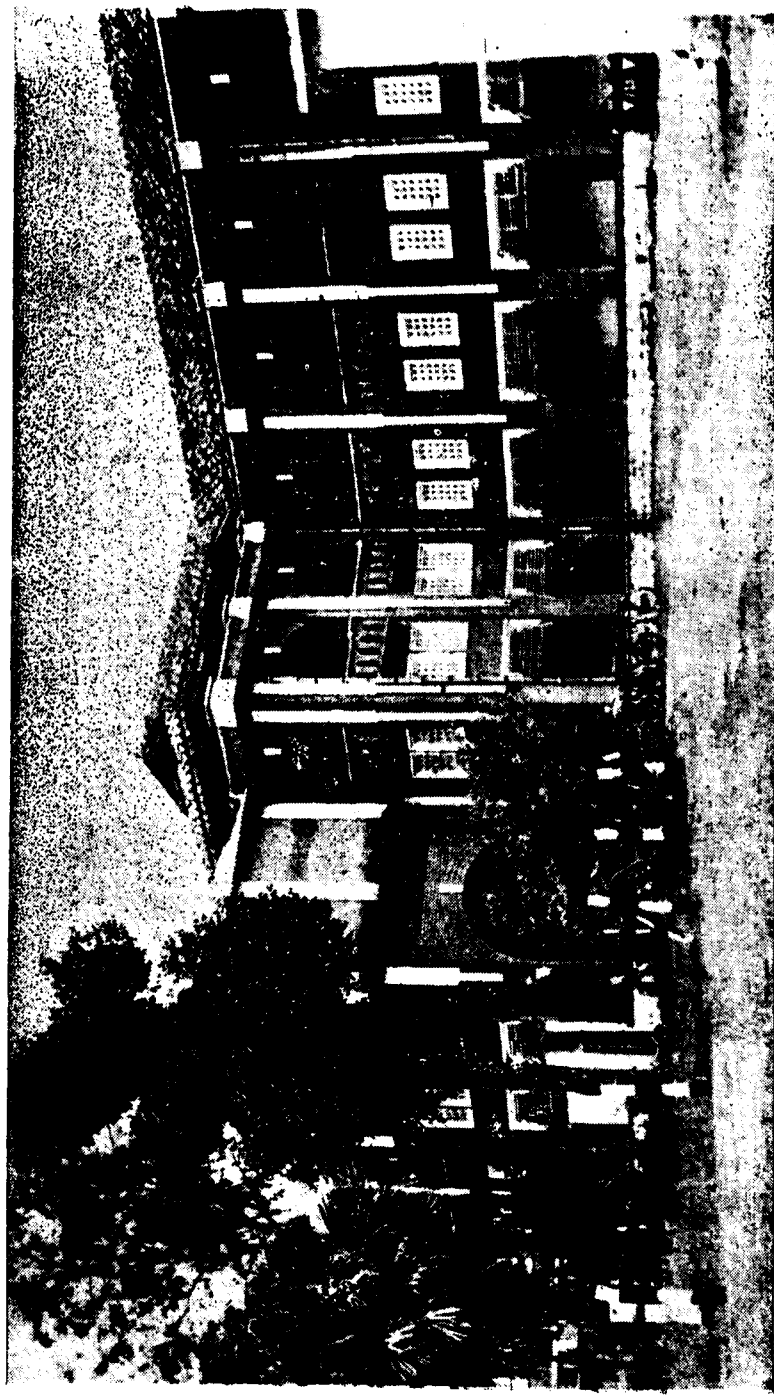
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



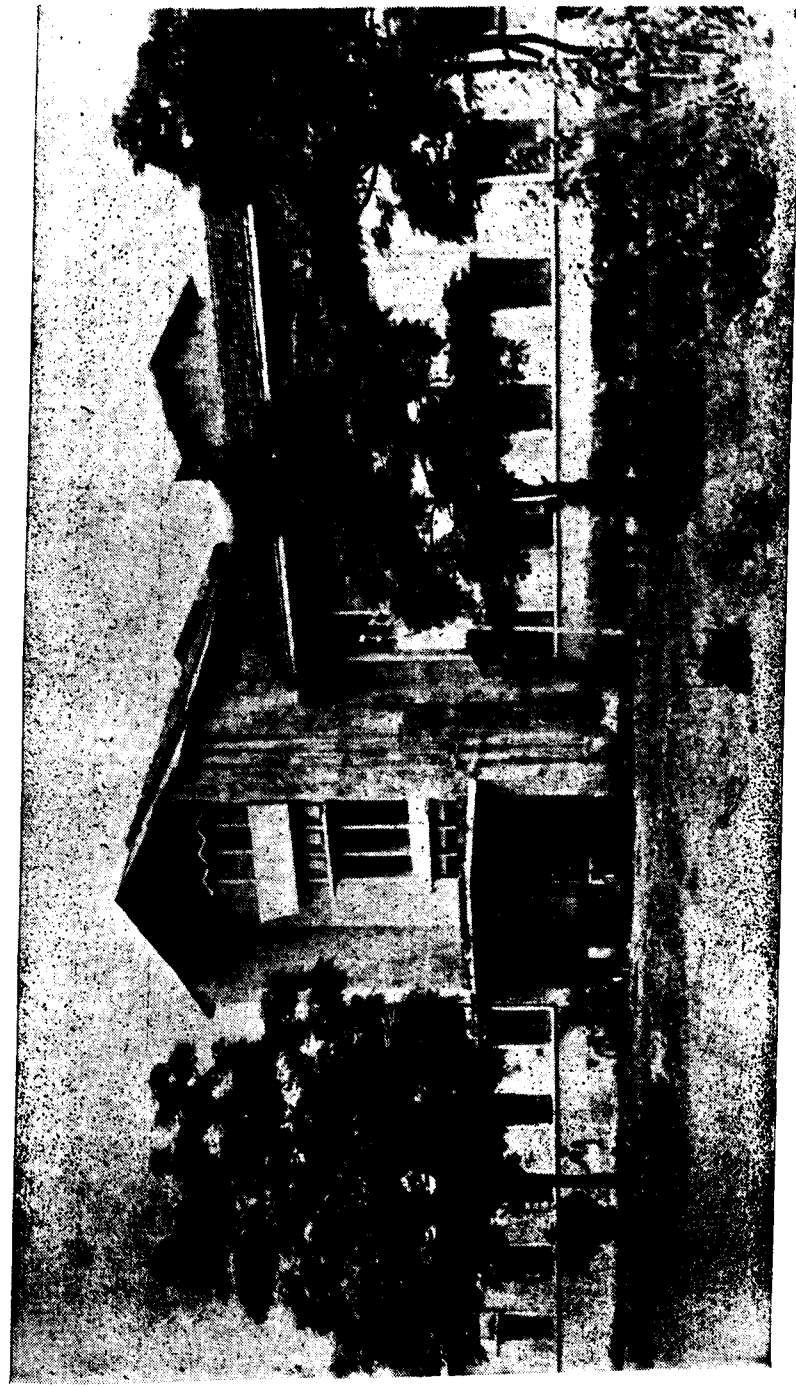
Reformatory School, Seoni
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



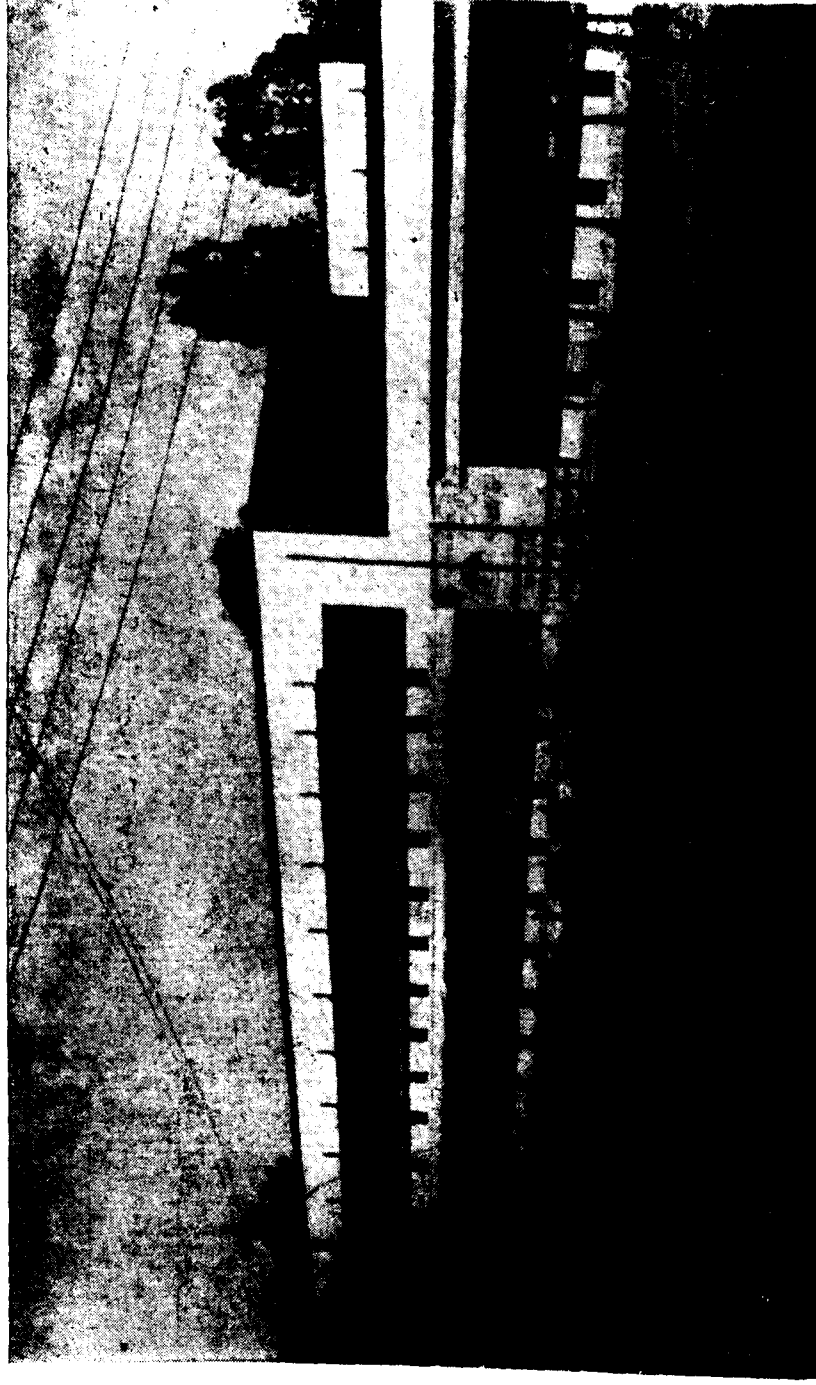
Mission Higher Secondary School, Seoni
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



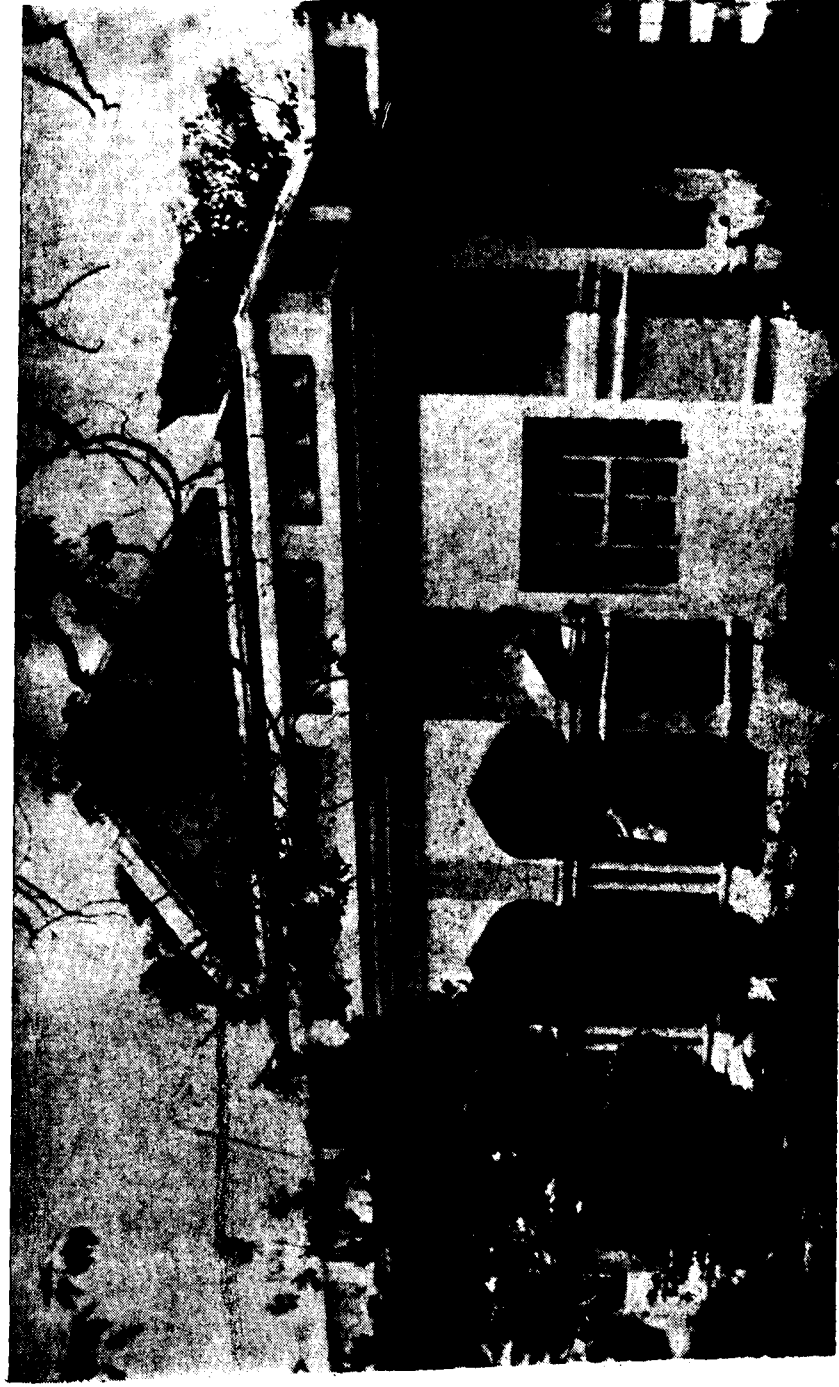
Govt. Arts & Science College, Seoni
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



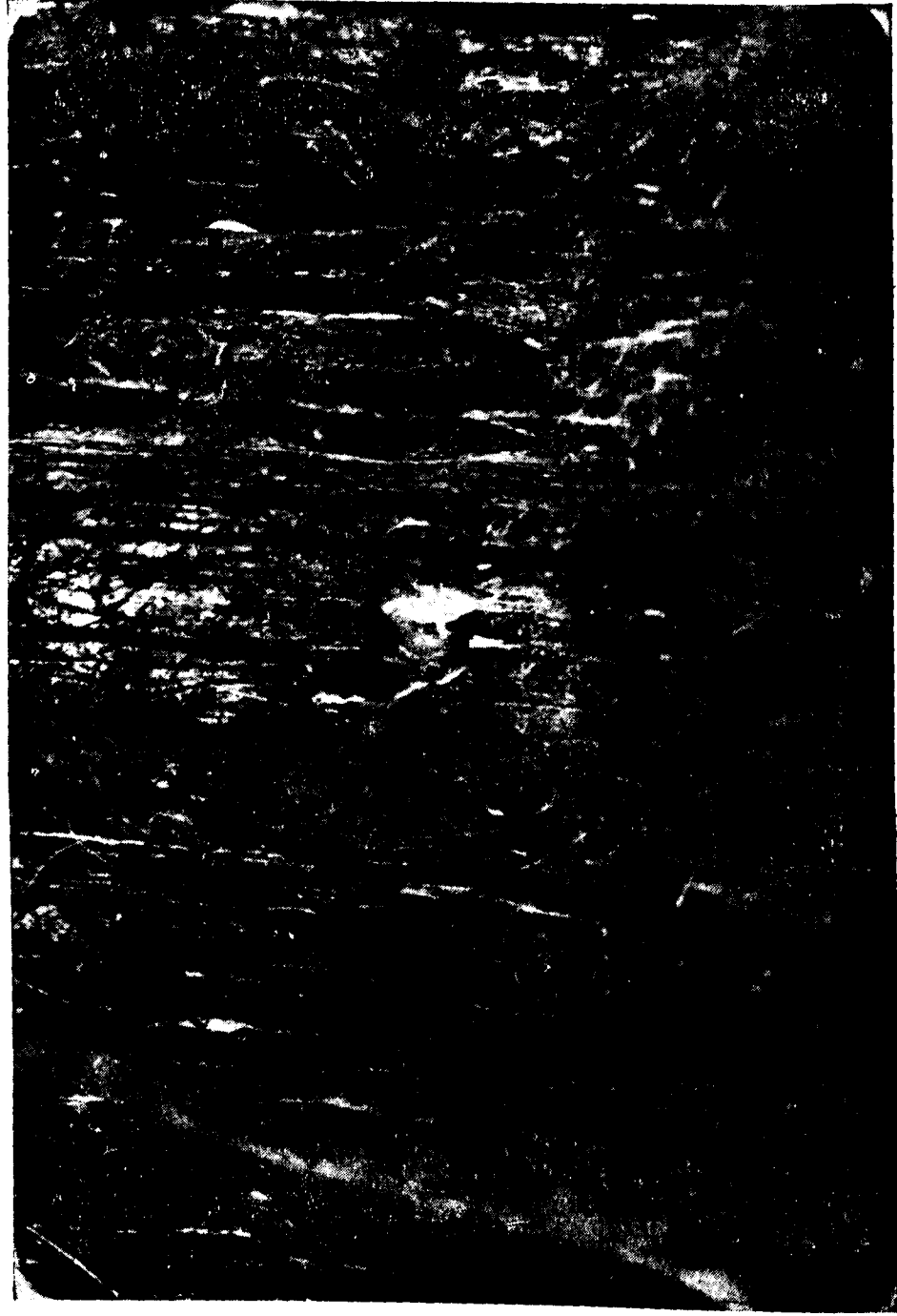
Govt. Polytechnic, Seoni
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.) •



District Hospital, Seoni
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



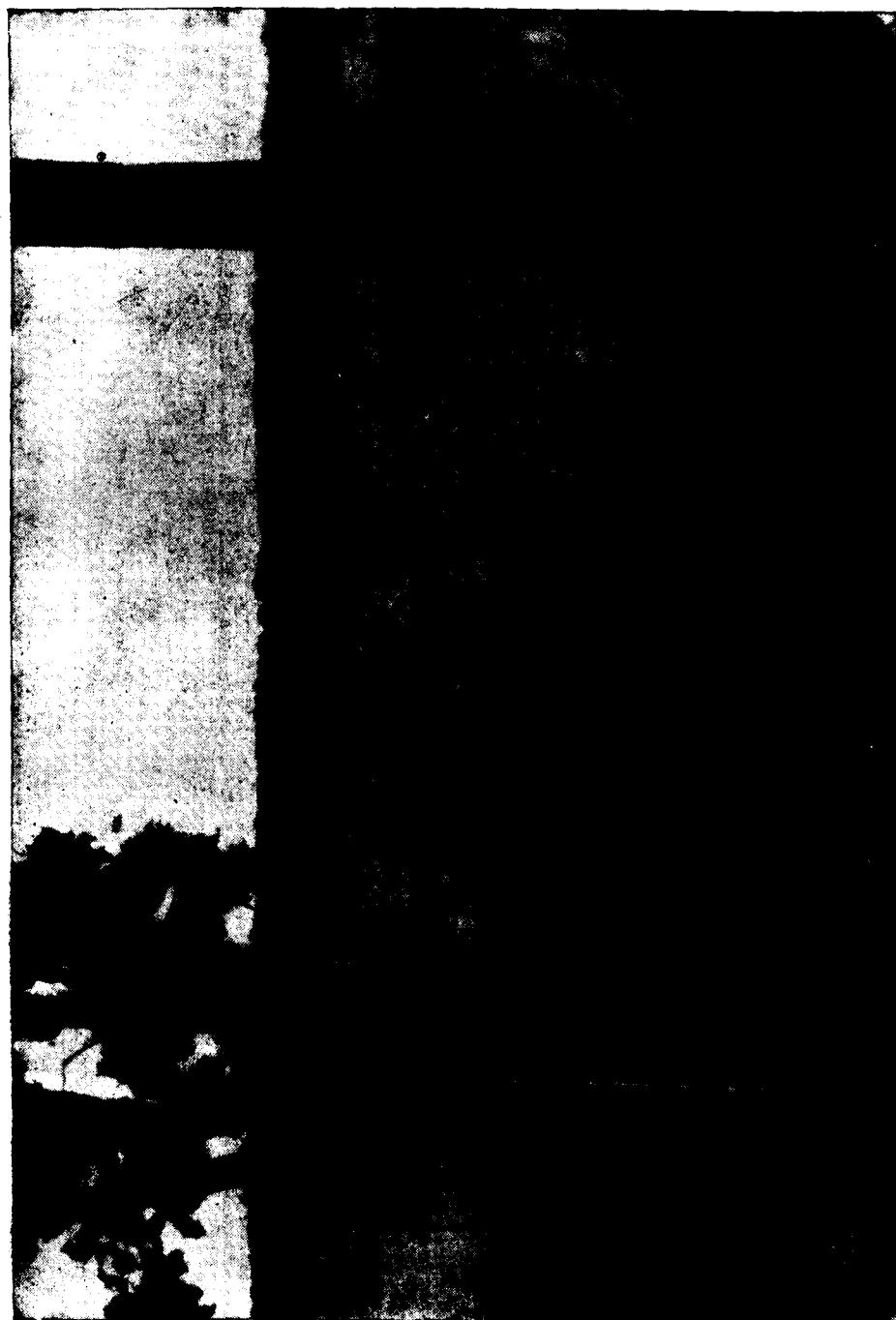
Town Hall, Seoni
(Courtesy : Publicity Deptt., M. P.)



Neelgai, Pench National Park
(Courtesy : Director, Pench National Park)



Saj Talab construction (Water source for wild life), Pench National Park
(Courtesy : Director, Pench National Park)



Bodanala lake, Panch National Park
(Courtesy : Director, Panch National Park)

ERRATA

Page (1)	Para (2)	Line (3)	For (4)	Read (5)
1	3	1	pronounded	pronounced
10	2	1	rangeb	ranges
20	7	3	gusty	dusty
28	f.n.	6	Biggs	Briggs
30	4	21	Control	Control of
			Deogarh rules	Deogarh rulers
33	2	last	kingdom. ¹	Kingdom. ³
33	3	last	Diwan ²	Dwan ⁴
47	9	3	87 persons,	87 persons,
49	6	1-2	points of inflection	points of inflection.
53	Foot Note	5	pp. 40-41	pp. 46-47.
54	1	5	fateer-in-law's	father-in-law's
54	7	4	Wat	was
55	4	5	ocisally	socially
57	7	1	ahenga	lahenga
66	Table	Col. 1	Air	Ari
	No. IV-3	(Sr. No. 9)		
68	Table	Col. 4	3,64,21	3,64,212
	No. IV.6		91,44	91,745
			2,72,46	2,72,461
69	2 Non Foodcrops	32.2		22.2
72	6	7	Safe	safed
75	Table	Col. 6	15	155
	No. IV-9		26	260
79	4		Years.	Years. ¹
80	1	2	for him."	for him"
85	3	2	shall	small
85	5	14	age	can
96	5	7	etc. of	etc. Of
98	4	2	District, with	District. With
98	5	3	railway slippers	railway sleepers
"	6	3	incensed sticks,	incense sticks
			mat-weaving	mat-weaving

G
V25557 2

1	2	3	4	5
99	4	5	completer of	complete or
110	--	footnote	1. ibid, pp. 121-123	1. Seoni District Gazetteer, 1907, pp. 121-123.
111	3	10	Nagpur.	Nagpur, 5
111	--	footnote	Inalla. val.	India, Vol.
114	2	7	40 tols or 1 lb.	40 tolas or 1 lbs
126	2	15-16	pro-sed	progresed
128	1	1	334 percent	34 per cent
128	1	1-2	defend	depend
128	3	17	jowar	lower
129	2	18	rtesa	rates
130	2	3	fall dresds	full decade
132	4	10	out vogue	out of vpgue
134	2	10	19.18	1918
139	Table No. IX-10	Col 4	96	969
			99	988
			17,682	1,768
			228	2,728
142	4	7	back the	the
188	2	4	1970	1870
190	4	1	dy	diarchy
196	2	2	Local	Local Boards.
197	4	7	197	1971
200	2	Table Heading	Education on	Expenditure on
			water supply.	water supply
203	2	4	totalin 4 km.	totalling 45 km.
207	5	1	1970-80	1870-80
211	3	5	education	education
223	Table-1	7 and 9	mile	mille
227	5	1	1961.	1961.
238	3	8	enforced in the	enforced in the area.
239	2	9	seeking	seeking
242	2	6	whole	while
253	2	26	than	man
256	2	8	flance	flance
256	4	6	hasted to the river	haste to dam the river

