

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

This chapter covers the description of labour welfare, uplift of weaker sections of the society, welfare of old, infirm and destitute persons and prohibition.

LABOUR WELFARE

Prior to Independence, there was no regular government organisation to watch and ensure the welfare of labour and to settle disputes and other connected labour problems. A separate Labour Department in the composite Punjab was established in 1949. Till 1966, all labour matters relating to the Hisar district were looked after by the Labour Officer, Rohtak and Conciliation Officer, Bhiwani. Shortly thereafter, these two offices were combined and a Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Bhiwani. His jurisdiction extended to Hisar, Bhiwani and Sirsa districts and he worked under the overall charge of the Labour Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Hisar looks after the proper and effective implementation of various labour laws in this district. As Conciliation Officer, he initiates proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes as provided by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and tries to settle them by mediation and by joint discussions. If he fails to settle the disputes, he submits his report to the government and matter is referred to the Labour Court or Industrial Tribunal¹ for adjudication.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Labour Legislation is necessary to tackle economic and social problems as civil laws in general do not particularly deal with labour problems. The labour laws are motivated by humanitarian approach as propounded by the International Labour Organisation and are based on the principles of social justice. Labour, under the Constitution of India is a concurrent subject and both the central and state legislatures are empowered to make laws. Accordingly, the state government has also enacted certain labour legislation to suit local needs. The more important labour laws in force and their main

1. There is a National Tribunal also to which reference is made by the Central Government to cover such cases as are of national importance or those in which establishments in more than one state may be affected.

provisions are detailed in Table XIV of Appendix . However, the Factories Act, 1948 is one of the most important labour legislation. It is administered by the Inspector of factories, Hisar under the overall supervision of Chief Inspector of Factories and Labour Commissioner Haryana through a Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and an Additional Chief Inspector of Factories.

The state government has appointed a Certifying Surgeon for whole state with headquarters at Faridabad who has been provided with a mobile van fitted with x-ray plant and laboratory. His duties are to visit the factories having hazardous operations, check-up the health of workers and take remedial measures to forestall any deterioration.

Industrial Relations

The relations between the employees and the employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Bhiwani is responsible for enforcing it in the district. His efforts are directed towards fostering amicable relations between the management and the workers by removing, as far as possible, the causes of friction by prompt intervention and by timely redress of the grievances of the parties. Emphasis is laid on settlement of disputes through direct negotiations across the table or voluntary arbitration rather than through adjudication.

The functions of the Conciliation Officer are advisory and he has no direct power to make or vary awards. He has been successful in bringing about a large number of agreements between the parties. During the period from January, 1975 to December 31, 1978, 486 disputes were handled by the Conciliation Officer in the district. Of these, 196 were settled through his intervention, 35 were referred to adjudication/arbitration, 93 were withdrawn, 147 were rejected /filed by the government and the remaining 15 were pending for disposal at the end of the year.

Works Committees

To promote harmonious relations between the employers and the workmen, to consider matters of mutual interest and to solve day to day problems, there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for setting up a works committee in the industrial establishment employing 100 or more workers. Such committees consisting of equal number of representatives of the management and workmen exist in the following industrial establishments :—

(i) Hisar Textile Mills, Hisar

(ii) Jindal Industries, Hisar

(iii) Jindal Strips, Hisar

Strikes

There seems to be good relations and harmony between the employers and workers and only 80 industrial disputes occurred in the district during 1978. There were 3 strikes /lock outs in 1978 involving 5,534 workers as a result of which 17,482 man-days were lost.

Trade Unions

The trade union movement in the district has gained momentum which is reflected in the number of registered trade unions under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. On December 31, 1977 there were 29 registered trade unions in the district. The names of these unions is given in Table XV of Appendix.

Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme

The Government of India initiated the subsidised industrial housing scheme in September, 1952. Under this scheme only one establishment viz. Hissar Textile Mills Hisar has provided residential houses to their workers.

Labour Welfare Centres

A government labour welfare centre with educational and recreational facilities to workers and their families has been opened at Hisar. The centre provides training in tailoring and embroidery to women, facilities for indoor and outdoor games, radio sets and musical instruments for recreation and cultural activities. Variety programmes are also organised occasionally.

Employee's Provident Fund Scheme

The Employees Provident Funds Scheme framed by the Government of India under the Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, was designed to provide security to workers. The scheme was introduced on November 1, 1952. Initially, it was applicable to the factories employing 50 or more persons, but the limit was lowered from December 31, 1960, and factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons were covered under the scheme.

The provident fund contribution is deducted at the rate of 6½ per cent from the monthly wages of the employees subscribing to the fund and an equal amount is contributed by the employers. The rate of contribution was enhanced from 6½ per cent to 8 per cent on January 1, 1963, in respect of industries/classes of establishments employing 50 or more persons. In Hisar district 133 factories/establishments were covered under this scheme by March 31, 1979 and 12,718 workers out of a total of 14,396 workers subscribed to the scheme.

The entire amount is deposited with the State Bank of India in Employees Provident Funds Account. The administrative charges at a fixed rate are contributed additionally by the employers. The fund rests with the central board of trustees having nominees of the central government, the state government and representatives of the employers and employees. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner at New Delhi is the Chief Executive Officer. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner at Chandigarh is responsible for the implementation of the scheme in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The subscribers can withdraw money from their provident fund for certain approved purposes. To afford financial assistance to the nominees/heirs of the deceased subscriber, a Death Relief Fund was set up in 1964 and a minimum of Rs. 1,000 is assured by way of relief. A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of individual retrenchment in order to mitigate the immediate hardship.

A subscriber is allowed to withdraw the full amount standing to his credit in the fund on completing 15 years of membership ; or on attaining the age of 55 years ; or after retirement from service ; or on retirement on account of permanent and total incapacity for work ; or on migration from India for permanent settlement abroad and termination of service in the case of mass as well as individual retrenchment.

In the Hisar district 283 provident funds claims were settled and about Rs. 3,06,625.40 was paid to the claimants during 1977-78.

Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme 1976

Notified by the Government of India, this scheme came into force on August 1, 1976. The scheme applies to the employees of the factories/establishments which are covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. An employer is required to pay 0.5 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages, dearness allowance (including the cash value of food concession) and retaining allowance, if any, payable to the employees and 0.1 per cent of the aggregate of basic wages for meeting the expenses in connection with the administration of the insurance scheme.

On the death of an employee who is a member of the fund, the person entitled to receive the provident fund accumulations of the deceased, shall, in addition to such accumulations, be paid an amount equal to the average balance in the provident fund account of the deceased during the preceding three years provided that the average balance in the account of the deceased member is not below the sum of Rs. 1,000 at any time during the preceding 3 years. The payment shall not exceed Rs. 10,000.

Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Scheme, 1971

This scheme was introduced by the Government of India by amending the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and was enforced on March 1, 1971. It provides family pension to the heirs of the members of the fund who die prematurely while in service. Employees who were subscribing to the fund before February 28, 1971, were given choice to opt for this scheme which has been made compulsory since March, 1971 for all those subscribing to the fund.

Although no additional liability on the members is levied under the scheme, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of his wages is transferred to Family Pension Fund out of the amount of the subscriber as well as employers contributions payable under the Employees Provident Funds Scheme.

The members who join the family pension-cum-life assurance scheme at the age of 25 years or less and retire after attaining the age of 60 years, are eligible for retirement benefits under this scheme to the tune of Rs. 4,000. Similarly those leaving service for reasons other than death are also allowed withdrawal benefits at certain rates. For those who join this scheme after 25 years of age, certain percentage of reduction in benefits has been prescribed.

The benefits are admissible only if the member has contributed for 2 years, otherwise his own share of contribution to family pension fund along with interest at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is refundable to him.

Employee's State Insurance Scheme

It is designed to provide security in the form of cash benefits to the industrial workers against sickness, maternity disablement and death due to employment injury. Periodical payments of cash are made to all insured persons in case of sickness, suffering from disablement, confinement and miscarriage and to the dependents while the person dies as a result of an employment injury. Artificial limbs, artificial denture, spectacles and hearing aids are also supplied to the insured persons. The workers drawing wages upto rupees one thousand or less per mensem working in the factories employing 10 or more persons and using power in the manufacturing process are covered under the Employee's State Insurance Act, 1948. This scheme is not applicable to the mines covered by the Mines Act, 1952 and workers working in railway running sheds, tea plantations, defence concerns and the seasonal factories. An employer has to pay twice the employees' contributions from the day the benefit provisions of the Act are extended to that area.

The scheme functions under the administrative control of the Director General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi. In

Haryana, this scheme is executed through the Regional Director, Employees State Insurance Corporation, Chandigarh, who inspects factories, collects contributions, arranges payment of cash benefits.

The provision of medical care is the statutory responsibility of the state government and facilities are to be given according to the standard laid down by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. Seven-eighth share of the expenditure incurred on medical care is contributed by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and the remaining one-eighth of the total expenditure is born by the state government. The expenditure on other cash benefits is to be met by the Corporation entirely out of the Employees' State Insurance Fund.

Periodical payments are given to an insured employee in case of sickness and employment injury. An amount of Rs. 100 for funeral ceremony and periodical payment in the shape of pension is paid to the dependents of an employee if he/she dies of an employment injury. The scheme was first introduced in the district at Hisar in 1961 and in 1978, it was functioning at Hisar and its suburbs and covered about 7,600 employees working in Corporation.

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Old Age Pension

The protective umbrella of social security in the form of old age pension was provided to the old, destitute and disabled persons in 1964 for the first time. The pension amount was fixed at Rs. 15 per month. The old, destitute or disabled persons who were in the age group of 65 years or above in the case of men and 60 years or above in the case of women and who were without subsistence or support were made eligible for the pension. The scheme was scrapped in 1967 but was revived in April, 1969 and the pension amount was enhanced to Rs. 25 per month. The quantum of pension was enhanced to Rs. 80 per mensem in April, 1977. The number of beneficiaries during the years 1975-76 to 1977-78 varied between 600 to 650.

Family and Child Welfare Project

The Government of India, Department of Social Welfare introduced family and child welfare project in the community development block of Fatehabad in 1967. The project provides all round development of pre-school children by utilising the services of various institutions in the block, including the family itself. It provides training to young mothers in home management, modern craft and allied subjects. It is directed towards laying a sound foundation for future adults. In the implementation of the programme, the block panchayat samiti, is directly involved. The Sarpanch

is the chairman of the functional Committee and the non-official woman social worker is the executive vice-chairman. The programme has institutional base at the headquarters of the block which disperses activities in the rest of the block through the various sub-centres.

During the Fourth Five Year Plan, the project was run by the Central Social Welfare Board through the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and the entire expenditure was met by the Government of India. The control of the project run by the State Social Welfare Advisory Board has, however, been taken over by the state government with effect from April, 1974.

Advancement of Backward Classes

The Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and Other Backward Classes¹ residing in the district are as under :—

Scheduled Castes

Ad Dharmi, Bauri or Bawaria, Bazigar, Balmiki, Chura or Bhangi, Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Regar, Raigar, Ramdasia or Ravidasi, Dhanak, Dumna, Mahasha or Doom, Kabirpanthi or Julaha, Khatik, Kori, Koli, Mazhabi, Megh, Nat, Od, Perna, Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh, Sapela, Sikligar, Sirkiband and Sansi.

Vimukat Jatis

Bauria, Nat, Sansi.

Other Backward Classes

Aheria, Aheri, Heri, Naik, Thori or Turi, Baragi, Bairagi, Bharbhunja, Bharbhuja, Bhat, Bhatra, Darpi, Ramiya, Bhubalia Lohar, Chimba, Chhipi, Chimpa, Darzi, Tank, Daiya, Dhobi, Dakaut, Dhimar, Mallah, Kashyap Rajputs, Faqir, Gwaria, Gauria or Gwar, Ghasi, Ghasiara or Ghosi, Gadaria, Gwala, Gowala Garhi, Hajjam, Nai, Jhangra Bahman, Joginath, Kanjar or Kanchan, Kahar, Jhinwar or Bhinar,

1. Scheduled castes have been defined in Article 344 of the Constitution of India. Vimukat Jatis cannot be such a tribe, gang or class of persons or any part of tribe, gang or class of persons which were deemed to be criminal tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act VI of 1924. Other Backward classes include Backward classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, recognised as such by the state government on the basis of educational and economic backwardness coupled with some social stigma akin to untouchability.

Kumhars (including Prajapatis) Khati, Kuchband, Lakhera, Lohar, Maniar, Madari, Mirasi, Mochi, Nais, Nalbad, Pinja, Raigar, Rai Sikhs, Sighikant, Singhiwala, Thathora, Tampora, Teli, Vanzara and Julaha.

The different professions adopted by these classes include agricultural labour, sweeping and scavenging, leather tanning, shoe-making, basket and rope making, pigs and sheep rearing, hair cutting, iron smithy, washing and dyeing, etc.

The Department of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes has adopted certain measures for the benefit of these classes in pursuance of the Directive Principles embodied in the Constitution of India. These schemes were taken up to ameliorate their conditions and to bring them at par with other castes.

Removal of Untouchability.—Article 17 of the Constitution of India abolished untouchability and forbids its practice in any form. The practice of of untouchability has also been declared an offence under the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 now known as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. Despite these constitutional and legal guarantees, it is existing in one form or the other, especially in rural areas.

To eradicate untouchability, a special programme is carried on through community centres known as Sanskar Kendras and Balwadis. These are started at places where there are large concentrations of members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. These centres are open to all classes irrespective of caste or creed. Besides the 3R's (reading, writing and arithmetic), women are taught cooking, first aid, home nursing, care of baby, mending of clothes and some crafts by a Lady Social Worker. The children play games and are trained in cleanliness, good conduct and good habits. The expenditure incurred on cloth, sewing machines and books is met by the government. The Male Social Worker attached to the centres holds adult literacy classes, teaches technique of cottage industries, organises sports, games and cultural programmes besides propagating against untouchability. In 1977-78, three community centres were functioning at Parbhuwala, Ahrvan and Ladwa.

The government introduced a scheme of Harijan *chaupals* in 1970-71 for providing a common gathering place for Scheduled Caste persons for celebrating social/religious functions. These *chaupals* are open to all other

communities and thus help in promoting social integration of the Scheduled Castes and other communities. Under the scheme, a subsidy up to Rs. 5,000 for the construction of *chaupal* and upto Rs. 2,000 for the repair of old one is given. Since the inception of the scheme, an amount of Rs. 9,19,000 have been spent for the construction/repair of 217 Harijan *chaupals* in the district.

Promotion of Education.—The persons belonging to Backward classes are provided special facilities, financial as well as others to spread education among them. These special measures have been described in chapter on 'Education and Culture'.

Subsidy for Construction of New Houses.—In order to provide shelter to the homeless members of the Scheduled Castes, subsidies are granted for the construction of a house. A subsidy of Rs. 2,000 for the construction of a house is given to person who has no house of his own. The proprietary rights of the house remains vested in the government for 20 years after which the house becomes the property of the beneficiary. The latter, of course, has free use of the house during this period. During the period from 1956-57 to 1977-78 a sum of Rs. 9,99,100 was disbursed to 1,082 beneficiaries.

Out of 1,082 beneficiaries, 1,077 have constructed their houses.

Subsidy for House Sites.—Over-crowding of houses in Harijan *bastis* in the rural areas poses a serious problem. Although the Punjab Village Common Lands(Regulation) Act, 1961, has conferred upon Harijan the proprietary rights over the sites under their houses, yet to relieve congestion in Harijan *bastis*, the government initiated a scheme in 1958-59 to grant a subsidy of Rs. 200 to each deserving and needy persons of the Scheduled Castes for the purchase of a residential site. The scheme was withdrawn in 1967-68. However in 1968-69, an incentive for purchase of house site was provided by way of loan of Rs. 1,000 at 3 per cent interest. A sum of Rs. 1,08,000 was disbursed to 108 beneficiaries in 1968-69 under this scheme whereafter it was dropped.

Drinking Water Amenities.—Grants were given to Harijan in rural as well as urban areas for the provision of drinking water facilities. The wells and handpumps constructed as such are open to the general public also. This scheme was introduced in 1955-56.

A sum of Rs. 4,14,170 was disbursed during the period 1955-56 to 1977-78 for the projects as shown below :

Name of the Scheme	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount
		(Rs.)
1. Sinking of new wells	139	27,875.00
2. Repair of old wells	193	98,310.00
3. Installation of Handpumps	108	37,110.00
Total :	404	4,14,170.00

Facilities for Industrial Training.—To improve the economic condition of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, their young men are trained as skilled workers by giving them training on an apprenticeship basis in various trades in different industrial training institutions.¹ Twenty per cent of the seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and two per cent for the Backward Classes. During the course of training, which varies from one year to two years, a monthly stipend of Rs. 45 is granted to a trainee belonging to the Scheduled Castes. No stipend under this scheme is admissible to a trainee of Backward Classes. This particular scheme is aimed at improving the status not only of the individual concerned but also of the families to which they belong.

Grant of Interest Free Loan.—For lack of finance, professionally trained skilled members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes find it difficult to establish themselves in the professions of law, medicine, engineering and architecture. Others not so trained also need money to set up or expanding an industry, business or trade such as shoe-making, cattle-breeding dairying, sheep-breeding, wood work, weaving, sewing, etc. They are, therefore, helped with loans free of interest, under the Punjab Backward Classes (Grant of Loans) Act, 1957. These loans are recovered in 20 half-yearly instalments and the first recovery starts after the lapse of four years from the date of drawal of the loan. The maximum amount which is granted to a borrower is Rs. 2,000.

The scheme was introduced in 1958-59. A sum of Rs. 3,92,800 was advanced from 1958-59 to 1977-78 to 571 persons of this district.

Subsidy /Loan for Purchase of Agricultural Lands .—Members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukat Jatis in rural areas generally depend on land for their livelihood but most of them have no land of their own. To help the deserving landless members of these communities to acquire land, a scheme provided a subsidy of Rs. 2,000 to a member who, in turn has to contribute the remaining amount from his own resources to acquire not less than 5 acres of land costing not less than Rs. 900 per acre. A person so settled was also given a subsidy of Rs. 500 for constructing a house or a well on the land purchased. A sum of Rs. 360 as subsidy to meet the expenses on stamp duty for registration of such land was also provided in each case. In 1969-70, the subsidy-oriented land purchase scheme was remodelled into a loan scheme. Under it, a loan of Rs. 4,500 was granted for the purchase of 3 acres of land. The loan was on 3 per cent interest and was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments commencing after four years from the date of disbursement. After the land was bought, a subsidy of Rs. 500 was paid to

1. For details about these institutions, the Chapter on 'Education and Culture' may referred to.

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the loanee for the purchase of agricultural implements. A person so settled was given a subsidy of Rs. 1,000 for the construction of a house or a well. This subsidy was also given to others who had their own land but has no well or house in it.

After 1972-73, loans/subsidy for the purchase of agricultural land was stopped as the members of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes were entitled to the surplus area declared under the Haryana Ceiling of Land Holdings Act, 1972.

Legal Assistance.—To protect the members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukhat Jatis, against the tyranny of landlords or other exploiting classes, legal assistance to defend themselves is provided in cases involving ejection from land, etc. During 1955-56 to 1977-78 legal assistance amounting to Rs. 2,845 was granted in 48 cases.

Subsidy for the Purchase of Pigs/Poultry Birds.—The deserving and the needy persons of the Scheduled Castes are given a subsidy of Rs. 800 each for the purchase of four pigs of imported or *desi* breed. The subsidy is given in kind, and the purchase is effected from the Government Piggery Farm, Hisar. Pigs are also purchased from the open market. A sum of Rs. 1,18,400 was paid to 148 beneficiaries during 1966-67 to 1977-78. No subsidy for the poultry farm has been given so far.

Loans (Miscellaneous).—It was felt that the students of Scheduled Castes while pursuing studies found it difficult to purchase books according to their requirement. An interest free loan to the tune of Rs. 200 to each post-matric and Rs. 400 to each post-graduate Scheduled Castes student is advanced for the purchase of books and stationery articles. This loan is recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments and the recovery commences after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68 and up to 1977-78, a sum of Rs. 1,15,850 was paid as loan to 608 persons.

The Scheduled Castes were advanced loan out of Harijan Kalyan Fund for setting up different trades and professions. The maximum amount of loan was Rs. 2,000 (Rs. 5,000 in case of certain specified trades) and the rate of interest was 3 per cent. It was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments and the recovery commenced after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68 and discontinued in 1971-72. During the period 1967-68 to 1971-72 an amount of Rs. 6,00,500 was advanced to 575 persons in the Hisar district.

Under another scheme which was operative only for the year 1968-69, a sum of Rs. 61,000 was advanced as loan to 61 persons belonging to the

Scheduled Castes for the purchase of residential plots. The loan was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments with 3 per cent interest, recovery commenced after four years of disbursement.

Assistance to Harijan Widows.—A scheme to help poor Harijan widows was introduced in Hisar district in 1974-75. Under this scheme a stipend of Rs. 20 per month is given to those Harijan widows who get training in tailoring in the nearest community centre run by the Social Welfare Department. During the training, raw materials required for the purpose is also provided by the government. After completion of one year course, they are given a new sewing machine each free of cost to earn their livelihood. Under the scheme 49 Harijan widows have received training and got the sewing machines upto 1977-78.

Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam Limited, Chandigarh.—The Nigam was formed in 1971 with an authorised capital of Rs. 2 crores for providing financial assistance to Harijans for their socio-economic and educational uplift. The Nigam advances loans at moderate rate of interest recoverable in easy instalments for various trades and professions. The loan is also advanced for higher studies in which case the rate of interest is further reduced. A loan up to Rs. 10,000 is given to an individual and up to Rs. 50,000 to registered partnership firms and cooperative societies consisting of all Scheduled Castes members.

The Nigam has a field officer at Hisar to process loan applications, assist prospective Harijans in preparing loan documents and recover loans.

The loan advanced by the Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam to the members of Scheduled Castes in the Hisar district for various trades/professions such as dairying, livestock breeding, poultry farming and other miscellaneous cottage industries, etc. was Rs. 0.44 lakh during 1977-78.

PROHIBITION

A programme of partial prohibition of observing two dry days, i.e. Mondays and Tuesdays, in a week besides closed days (i.e. Independence day-15th August, Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Birthday-11th September and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday 2nd October), was introduced on April 1, 1969, in the areas of the Hisar district. The intention was to increase the number of dry days gradually in each successive year and thus achieve complete prohibition within three or four years.

The policy of two days in a week did not bring about the desired

result. The people has either been stocking liquor for consumption during the dry days or purchased their requirements from bootleggers. It also encouraged illicit distillation. The licensees also sometimes indulged in malpractice of selling on prohibited days. The whole situation was, therefore, reviewed, and from April 1, 1970, it was decided to enforce only the policy of observing three closed days in a year. However, since April, 1973, every 7th day of a month is also observed as closed day. This has been done as check for the labour class against purchasing liquor on the pay day. Further, no liquor shop was to be opened within a distance of 100 metres from any educational institution or bus-stand or a place of public worship or public entertainment, and within 150 metres of a school or a college for women. The maximum limit of keeping only one bottle of country liquor in an individual's possession introduced in April, 1969, was allowed to continue.

Total prohibition was never enforced in the Hisar district. In 1977-78, there were 4 wholesale and 54 retail vends of country liquor and 5 wholesale and 50 retail vends of Indian made foreign liquor. The consumption of exciseable articles in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 was as follows :—

Year	Country liquor	Indian Made Foreign Liquor	Foreign Liquor	Beer	Bhang	Opium
	(L.P. Litres)	(L.P. Litres)	(L.P. Litres)	Imp. gallons)	(Kilo-grams)	(Kilo-grams)
1975-76	6,10,976	70,489	—	95,396	—	—
1976-77	6,83,950	1,19,731	6	2,56,341	—	—
1977-78	6,60,251	1,92,674	—	2,83,504	—	—

The consumption of country liquor and Indian made foreign liquor has considerably increased. The suppression of illicit distillation, opening of new vends, improved financial position of the people in the rural and urban areas are mainly responsible for the increased consumption of liquor in the district.

The oral consumption of opium for the general public was prohibited on April 1, 1959. The opium is only supplied to the registered

addicts through the Chief Medical Officer, Hisar. There was no sale of *bhāng* after April 1, 1965, due to total prohibition of its oral consumption.

Because of the restrictions on the sale of opium there is a black market in the commodity. It has also not been possible to check entirely the illicit distillation of liquor.