

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The previous chapters in this volume have described the important aspects of the district economy such as agriculture, industry, trade, transport, banking etc. In this chapter an attempt is made to describe such economic pursuits as are not dealt within these chapters. These pursuits could be grouped under the head 'Miscellaneous Occupations'. They have an important place in the economy of the district. Occupations also provide employment opportunities to a number of persons and many of these occupations are concerned with production of essential articles of daily use.

These occupations are mainly found in urban areas. During the last few years many changes have taken place in the organization, nature and operation of these occupations. The gradual urbanization has created a tendency among people to migrate towards towns in search of better means of livelihood. With this, a change has taken place in the food and clothing habits of the people which has resulted in increased number of establishments catering to the varied needs of the people.

Public Services

After independence (1947), there has been a considerable increase in the number of jobs in public services under the state and central government, local bodies and quasi-government organizations. The expansion in the development activities of the Government led to the creation of several new departments. Employment in Government service is highly valued for its prestige, security of service and other fringe benefits. Employees get dearness allowance which is linked with cost of living. Government has also built houses for its employees. Besides, the Government servants are given free medical facilities for indoor treatment and for outdoor treatment, fixed medical allowance of Rs.250 per month is given. The Government Servants have the facility of General Provident Fund while the public sector employees have Contributory Provident Fund. The employees are also given leave encashment in lieu of unutilized earned leave upto 300

days and gratuity on retirement based on length of service. Government servants are also given pension on retirement. Loans are also offered for purchase of vehicle, plot and construction of house. In addition, class IV employees are provided with liveries, conveyance allowance, washing allowance and loan for purchase of wheat. Employees not provided with accommodation are given house rent allowance. Group Insurance Scheme has also been introduced for the Government employees. The Government has also made provisions for family pension, compassionate financial assistance equal to the pay and other allowances that was last drawn by the deceased employee in the normal course as under:-¹

1. For a period of fifteen years from the date of death of the employee, if the employee at the time of his death and not attained the age of thirty five years;
2. For a period of twelve years or till the date the employee would have retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation, whichever is less, if the employee at the time of his death had attained the age of thirty five years but had not attained the age of forty eight years;
3. For a period of seven years or till the date the employee would have retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation, whichever is less, if the employee had attained the age of forty eight years.

In March, 2003, the number of employees in public services in the district was 17,376. Of these, 308 were Central Government employees, 10,069 State Government employees, 1991 Central Public Sector employees, 3,990 State Public Sector employees and 618 Local Bodies employees.

Private Sector Services

With the growth of economy, employment opportunities have increased manifold in the private sector. Rapid urbanization and

¹ Section-5(i) of "The Haryana Compassionate Assistance to the Dependents of Deceased Government Employees Rules, 2006.

industrialization have opened opportunities for new jobs in private sector. Private Sector includes organized private industrial and commercial establishments, shops and hotels. The private sector absorbs a large number of employees. The employees in large and medium scale industries are well paid and enjoy better service conditions than their counterparts in small scale industries. Kurukshetra district has only a few large and medium scale industrial units. The small scale industrial units absorb bulk of workers. During 2002, the industrial sector in the district provided employment to 3,163 persons.

The commercial establishments, shops and hotels and restaurants in towns employ Assistants, Salemen, Cooks and Helpers. Though these workers are not well organized, but their working conditions and wages are protected by the Government under the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1958.

As on December 31, 2002, the district had 5,935 shops with 3,135 employees, while the number of commercial establishments was 276 with 937 employees. The district had 58 hotels and restaurants with 67 employees. It seems that majority of such establishments are being managed by the family members of the owners.

Defence Service

The people of this area from all sectors contributed a large number of recruits to the different branches of the defence services during the two World Wars. A large number of soldiers from the district fought during J & K Operation, 1948, Goa Operation, 1961, Chinese Aggression, 1962, the Indo-Pak Wars in 1965, 1971 and Kargil War, 1999. Wing Commander T.P.S. Gill and Flt.Lt.Vishwanath Prakash of the district have been awarded Vir Chakra in recognition of the gallantry displayed by them during Pakistan Aggression in 1965 and in Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka in 1987 respectively. Another 8 persons belonging to the district have been awarded Mention-in-Despatches and 4 persons Sena Medals.

The number of ex-servicemen in the district in 2003-04 was 4,745.

The State Government has granted several concessions to the Armed Forces personnel and their families belonging to Haryana.

These concessions include rewards in the forms of cash and annuity to winners of gallantry decorations; employment concessions by way of reservation in vacancies, age and educational relaxation and pension, *ex gratia* grants and educational grants to the armed forces personnel or the families of those killed in action, disabled or declared missing. These concessions are granted according to the status of the persons and the extent of disability. Further facilities by way of reservation of industrial and residential plots, houses of the Haryana Housing Board and exemption from house tax are also provided to the ex-servicemen.

The cash rewards and annuity given to the winners of the Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra and Vir Chakra are detailed below:-

| Decoration | Reward |
|----------------------|---|
| (i) Param Vir Chakra | (a) Cash reward of Rs.22,500. (b) Annuity: Rs.3000 is given during lifetime of the serviceman or his wife(widow, if the decoration is earned posthumously). |
| (ii) Mahavir Chakra | (a) Cash reward of Rs.15000. (b) Annuity: Rs.1200 is given during lifetime of the servicemen or his wife / widow / widower (if the decoration is earned posthumously). |
| (iii) Vir Chakra | (a) Cash Rs.7,000. (b) Annuity: Rs.900 is given during lifetime of the serviceman or his wife/widow/husband/widower (if the decoration is earned posthumously). |

The winners of Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and Sena/Vayu Sena/Nav Sena medal are given cash reward of Rs.20,000/-, Rs.12000/-, Rs.5000/- and Rs.4000/- respectively. Annuity of Rs.2400/-, Rs.900/-, Rs.600/- and Rs.600/- respectively. It

has also been decided to give a cash reward of Rs.3000/- to the recipient of Mention in Despatches with annuity of Rs.300/-.

The awardees of Param Vir Chakra (Posthumous) or of Chinese Aggression 1962, Indo-Pak Conflicts of 1965 and 1971 are given monetary grants of Rs. 1,50,000/- in lieu of land, whereas winners of Maha Vir Chakra are given Rs.1,00,000/- for the purchase of agricultural land or urban property.

These benefits are in addition to any *ex gratia* grant/pension that may be admissible otherwise. In the case of more than one gallantry decorations, the awardees are entitled to full cash rewards for each decoration, separately. In the case of posthumous decorations, the rewards/annuities are given as under:-

- (i) 50 percent is given to the widow/dependent children with immediate effect.
- (ii) 50 percent is given to the parents provided they were dependent on the recipient of the decoration. Other the whole annuity is given to the widow/dependent children.
- (iii) Where widow/dependent children and dependent parents do not exist, the payment of each cash rewards and annuity are made to the dependent brother(s) and sister(s) provided they were residing with the deceased during his life time and in the case of females, annuity is to be paid till her/their marriages.
- (iv) Where the deceased is survived by his dependent parents only, then parents are given 100 percent of such grant.

Haryana Amalgamated Fund for the Welfare of Ex-Servicemen

The post-war service reconstruction Fund(raised during World War-II) and Special Fund for Reconstruction and Re-habilitation of Ex-Servicemen (raised in 1964) were created by Govt. of India for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen. These two funds had been amalgamated in a single fund named "Haryana Amalgamated Fund" for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen vide Haryana Govt. Administration of Justice Department Notification No.515179/JJ(I) dated 15th Nov.1979. The objects of the funds are as under:--

- (i) To award stipends to Ex-Servicemen for technical managerial, vocational or agricultural training at recognized training Institution.
- (ii) Grant of stipends to the wards of Ex-servicemen.
- (iii) Medical relief to T.B. and leprosy patients.
- (iv) To sanction grants or loans to co-operative societies or associations of ex-servicemen for schemes and projects of re-settlement that is to say horticulture, animal husbandry, industry, transport and the like.
- (v) To sanction expenditure on special measures of a collective nature for the maintenance of old and destitute ex-servicemen or widows of ESM.
- (vi) To finance the construction, furnishing and maintenance of Sainik Rest Houses and other amenities like library/information rooms and making alteration/additions to such existing institutions as required.
- (vii) To do all other things to promote measure for the benefit of ex-servicemen and their dependents.

Teaching Profession

Due to the expensing and quantitative development of educational activities, there has been remarkable increase in the number of persons engaged in this profession. The profession includes Professors, Lecturers and Research workers. With the opening of Kurukshetra University at Kurukshetra in 1956, the district has developed into a big educational centre of Haryana. Large number of persons are working as Professors, Lecturers and Research workers in the University and various colleges. Besides, as on March 31, 2004, 4,388 teachers (2,175 males and 2,213 females) were working in 157 recognized schools of all categories in the district. The persons engaged in the teaching profession still enjoy social respect. There has been significant improvement in the emoluments and service conditions of the teachers in the past few years. With the spread of education among females, the number of women teachers is on the increase.

Medical Profession

Growing awareness about health in general masses and efforts of the Govt. to improve medical services has helped a good number of persons to engaged themselves in public health and medical services. In 2004-05, 387 persons were engaged in such services being rendered by hospitals, nursing homes, maternity and child welfare clinics.

Private physicians both allopathic and ayurvedic are playing an important role in providing health care services to the people in urban and rural areas of the district. With homeopathic system of medicines also gaining ground in urban areas, the number of homeopathic medical practitioners is also increasing.

Many of the private practitioners dispense their own prescriptions. A few of them charge consultation fee but generally the cost of medicines supplied during the treatment covers the consultation fee as well. Some of the private practitioners particularly those running nursing homes, are doing very well on the basis of their professional competence.

Engineering Services

With all round increase in developmental activities in the district particularly since its formation, there has been manifold increase in the demand for engineering personnel in the field of agriculture, industry, transport and road and building construction. Total rural electrification of the district and linking of all villages with metalled roads has greatly boosted the agricultural and industrial development of the district thereby increasing demand for engineering personnel.

Legal Profession

This is also a very lucrative profession. There is an increasing tendency among the people to study law and adopt this profession. This profession includes Judges, Barristers, Advocates, Pleaders, Munshis, petition/document writers etc.. Due to increase in litigation, this profession has attracted a good number of persons during the recent years.

Transport

Linking of all villages of the district with metalled roads and overall economic development of the district in the last few years has

resulted in increased demand for transport facilities. Development of Kurukshetra and Pehowa as big pilgrimage and tourist centres and holding of big fairs of religious importance in the district has further boosted the demand for transport facilities.

Presently, a large number of workers earn their livelihood through this profession. Transport workers include people working in railways, buses, motors and those who drive taxis and auto-rickshaws. A large number of persons of the district are working as rickshaw pullers and they earn Rs.1500 to Rs.1800 per month. Auto three-wheelers, as a mean of transport have also become popular during the last few years. Facing stiff competition from three-wheelers and tempos, the number of tongas is dwindling. Transport workers viz. drivers, conductors, etc. have been employed by transport companies. They are provided with various facilities. Their economic and social conditions are comparatively better than those of rickshaw-pullers and tonga drivers. They have formed separate unions for safeguarding their interests. There are good number of private motor cars and jeeps in the district which are plied as private taxis by their owners themselves.

For the carriage of goods, men driven *rehris* and hand carts are also used. These are employed when the load is light and destination distance is short.

Personal Services

Among these are included barbers, washermen, launderers, tailors, cobblers, carpenters and the like which employ a considerable numbers.

Barbers.- The traditional practice of family barber(*nai*) in urban areas has become outdated. People go to hair cutting saloons for service. In villages, however, old practice of family barber still exists but many barbers have set up their shops in villages also. In urban areas, the posh hair dressing saloons and beauty parlour are becoming popular. The charges for hair cut vary between Rs.10 to Rs.15. Barbers in the towns have formed their union to look after their interest. Tuesday is generally observed as off day by barbers in urban areas.

Washermen.- The laundry services are mostly available in towns. These are becoming more popular due to their quick and efficient

services as compared to those of washermen. The scope of laundry has considerably increased with the rapid urbanization and the tendency of the people in urban areas to wear clean clothes. The washermen, the launderers and those exclusively engaged in ironing are the three components serving the clientele in their own way. Of late, washermen, and *dhobis* are losing their business as most of the people now prefer to wash clothes in the house and get these ironed by the *dhobis*. Woolen clothes are generally got dry cleaned. With the result that *dhobis* have set up street corner stalls for ironing of clothes.

Tailors.- The tailor is an indispensable unit of the society as he fulfils the primary needs of the community. Though tailoring shops are widespread in urban areas, every village does not have a tailoring shop. A group of two or three villages have a common tailor. Most of the tailors in small villages are unskilled and stitch only underwears or clothes of ordinary type. The tailors in big towns generally are adept in the art of tailoring and have thorough knowledge regarding the ever-changing fashion.

In the past, the profession was hereditary. But with the passage of time, the occupation in urban areas is losing its hereditary character. Now the people take up any of the profession which suits them and which would provide sufficient income. In villages we may sometimes find tailors going from house to house collecting orders taking measures, and finally making home delivery of stitched clothes which is a rare phenomenon in towns. Most of the tailors have their own sewing machines and work independently. There are also some big tailoring concerns, which get the work done on commission basis. Now almost in every home, ladies do some stitching work of miscellaneous type. Tailoring charges vary from shop to shop depending on the skill of tailors. In rural areas the charges are slightly less than the urban areas. In 2004, the stitching charges for shirt, pant and woolen suit were Rs.50, Rs.100/- and Rs.500/- respectively.

Carpenters.- The carpenters make and repair wooden structures, doors, windows, chairs and other building fixtures. The village carpenters make plough, carts and other agricultural and domestic articles. With rapid urbanization and building activity the profession has become profitable.

Self-employed persons.- The scope of work of self-employed persons is very wide. It includes *Julahas* (weavers), *mochis* (cobblers), sweepers, *thatharas*(utensil makers), shoe-makers, potters, bullock cart drivers, hand cart pullers, hawkers, *pandas*(priests) and all persons who work for their living by providing their individual services or goods on demand. There are shops of all kinds, *halwai* shops, *pan bidi* shops, shops manufacturing or selling aerated waters/soft/drinks shops dealing in grocery, electrical goods, vegetables and fruit shops. Bakeries sell their products directly or through agents. Goldsmiths manufacturing gold and silver ornaments. Shops dealing in general merchandise and consumer novelties also cater to varying needs, changing concepts and circumstances, make scope for new occupations. The growing habit of eating outside has led to the establishment of a large number of tea stalls, snack bars and *dhabas*. Likewise, a desire to wear standardized clothes has prompted the opening of shops dealing in readymade garments. The increasing use of automobile like scooter, motor cycle and motor cars has been responsible for attracting people to take to business of auto repairing. Bicycle repairers are found in every nook and corner of the district. With increase in demand for consumer durables like television and refrigerator, a number of shops have been opened in urban areas dealing in these items.

The time of old *Julahas* (weavers), *mochis* (cobblers), potters and sweepers are spread throughout the district and serve both the rural and urban community. Most of them in rural areas help families in their agricultural activities and perform their customary professional services on occasion of marriages and other ceremonies. The *mochi* with equipment hanging by his shoulder in a box, may usually be seen hawking for his services in the streets. Cobblers usually attend to the repair, mending and re-conditioning of shoes. Others who make new shoes have their own shops. The potters make ordinary vessels mostly for the use of villagers. The earthen pitchers and *surahis* because of their propriety to cool water are sold in large number during the summer season both in the urban and rural areas. The sweepers engaged in cleaning houses in urban areas, get a few rupees per month in addition to one or two *chapattis* daily and occasionally small gifts in cash or kind on festival and ceremonial occasions. In recent years, owing to better employment facilities and

privileges, some sweepers have been shifting over to services in Government offices and private organizations.

The hand-cart peddlers and hawkers go about the towns and villages hawking their goods. Goods which they sell include among other articles of daily use, vegetables, fruit eatables, general merchandize, crockery, cloth and toys.

Kurukshetra and Pehowa being great religious centres, a typical class of Hindu priests (*pandas* and *purohits*) are found in good number in these towns. They perform the customary religious practices, for the families to which they are attached and other pilgrims visiting these places and make living on this.

Domestic services.- In urban areas, the upper middle class and more well-to-do people often employ domestic servants. If both the partners are in service, a domestic servant is employed to look after their house and children. In rural areas, hardly any family employs a servant for domestic use. Most rural women attend to their domestic work themselves. The *halis*, besides attending to agricultural operations, do domestic chores for their masters. These persons are generally landless labourers.

A domestic servant is paid between Rs. 1000/- to 2500 per month besides free boarding and lodging. At marriages or other important festivals and ceremonies, they are paid both in cash and kind. A domestic servant engaged in a household may be required to purchase eatables from the market, cook food at home, clean the used dishes and plates, scrub utensils, sweep the house, and in fact do everything at the bidding of the masters. Some women also work as part time domestic servants in a number of houses for cleaning utensils, sweeping and helping the housewives in their daily chores. Such a part time domestic workers get about a Rs.100/- to Rs.150/- per month.