CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Background

Rohtak has been primarily an agricultural district; its old industries were confined to village and cottage sector. These included pottery, stone-dressing, leather tanning, handloom weaving, *phulkari*, utensil making, glass bangles and salt. Most of these have, however, been gradually decaying due to one reason or another.

Pottery.—The village pottery is as old as the country itself and Jhajjar enjoyed a special reputation in this field. Its products were known for their finish, originality of colour and decorative character. In the exhibition of 1864, the pottery of Jhajjar was described as the best among the unglazed collections of the Punjab. It also figured prominently in the exhibition of 1909 and Latifi described it in the following words:—

> "*Kagazi* (paper-like) pottery is remarkable for its thinness, and is made by *Kuzgars* (makers of this ware as distinguished from ordinary *Kumhars*) at *Basti Sheikh* in Jullundur and also at Jhajjar, Panipat and a few other places. Clay of good texture is used, and is prepared with very great care. The articles generally made are *surahis* (water-jugs), and *katoras* (drinking-cups).
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> "In addition to *kagazi* ware, the potters of Jhajjar make black utensils of exceptional hardness, ornamented with scratched pattern in amalgam. Small quantities of both varieties are exported to Delhi."[1]

This industry has become practically extinct for various reasons the chief among which were the exodus of Muslim artisans after the Partition and the absence of a rail link with Jhajjar. However, some workers are still engaged in Jhajjar in the manufacture of hookahs, *surahis* and pitchers, in making the last two of which they mix saltpetre in the clay to keep the water cooler than in *surahis* made of ordinary clay. They also make earthen vessels, tea-pots, flower-pots, small toys and fancy vases.

Crude coloured toys, sold at country fairs are made at Rohtak and Gohana. The *Nanak Shahi* bricks baked in the district in olden days

1. A. Latifi, *The Industrial Punjab*, 1911, p. 275.

have become completely extinct. In this connection, Latifi wrote as under:

> "Terracotta clays of fine texture, yielding wares of good colour on being fired, are found in Jullundur and Rohtak districts. Most of them however, are fusible at a comparatively low temperature, and are unsuitable for the manufacture of stoneware, but they could be made into superior red facing-bricks, ornamental tiles and other fancy terracotta wares".[1]

Stone-dressing.—Stone-dressing and carving was another village industry, famous for the workmanship of the artisans. The *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1910, described the same as under:

> "Many of the village houses have well-carved door frames, though the work seldom shows originality. The masonry houses are often fine and some really delicate work is to be seen on some of the newer houses in Ahulana and particularly on the Jain temple in Rohtak. The masonry *chaupals*.....are distinctive and handsome and Beri is famous for its masons."

Two idols in the famous Durga Temple of Beri testify to the artistic skill of the workers of this area. The industry is, however, decaying on account of extensive use of stone chips, reinforced concrete cement and lintel works.

Leather tanning.—Ample availability of raw material facilitated the development of leather tanning on cottage and small scale basis in many villages of the district. The method used here was, however, as crude and unscientific as in rural areas elsewhere. The Khatiks and Rehgars who undertook this work did rough tanning with lime and soda.

Kalanaur, a village in the Rohtak tahsil, was once known for its saddlery which was made from bullock hide and was highly decorated by insertion of stripes of different colours. It was much in demand until the products of Kanpur and Meerut came into the field. The indigenous industry then died out in the early 20th century.

Cotton-manufactures.—Cotton ginning, carding, spinning, and weaving is another old industry of the district. Cotton ginning was done by

1. A. Latifi, *The Industrial Punjab*, 1911, p. 271.

women in every rural household on a small roller, worked by hand, called *charkhi*. Cotton carding was done by the *penja* or *dhunnia* available in almost every village. The spinning was entirely done by women in their spare time during the day. As elsewhere in many parts of India, it was a familiar sight to observe a bevy of girls and women seated together in some open space, singing and spinning the yarn on the wheel (*charkha*). The weaving was done by *dhanaks* or *julahas* on pit-looms. The coarse cloth used for men's clothing was *khaddar*. In addition to *khaddar*, *khes* and *dotahi* were also made. *Khes* is a closely woven cloth, used as a blanket, and *dotahi* is bedding of the same texture and quality ornamented with a pattern in colour. These products gradually lost their market to machine-made goods. Recent Government policy to revive the handloom weaving and old handicrafts of the country, has again given a fillip to this decaying industry.

Besides the rough and common cloth, the town of Rohtak was known for muslins interwoven with gold and silver threads used for turbans and also for muslins of a particularly fine texture called *tanzebs*. Lockwood Kipling, one-time Principal, Mayo School of Arts, Lahore, said, "The Punjab has never been famous for very fine cotton manufactures and the *tanzeb* muslins of Rohtak are probably the best produced in the province."[1] Mukharji recorded, "the only place where fine muslins are now woven in the Province (Punjab) is Rohtak."[2] The art of manufacturing fine muslins was once extensively carried on at Rohtak which at one period of its history became a flourishing centre for this industry. The demand for such cloth was widespread and it was exported to places at considerable distances.

Dyeing was a speciality of Jhajjar; goods dyed here showed a remarkable range of colours. The introduction of aniline dyes which are cheaper, more varied and less tedious to apply, swept away the dyeing industry here as elsewhere.

Embroidery.—Hand embroidery on a woven fabric with coloured threads of wool or silk by means of a needle is an important handicraft, carried on by women. *Phulkari*, silk embroidered *chaddar* or veil for womenfolk has withstood competition by machines. This laborious handicraft for which Rohtak is well known requires much leisure, patience and the skill of many hands to embroider a single roll of coarse red cloth.

1. *Rohtak District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, p. 101.
2. T.N. Mukharji, *Art-Manufactures of India*, 1888, p. 322.

Metal products.—The *thathiar* (kettle-mender) going on his usual rounds in villages was a familiar sight in the district. Village Nagar, a suburb of Gohana, had a number of workmen, mostly Muslims, who were engaged in making pots and pans of brass and copper. The utensils of copper and tin amalgam known as *kansi* made there were highly esteemed. Sonepat and Panipat were two good markets for this kind of metal ware.

Salt.—Salt was manufactured in the Jhajjar tahsil at Zahdpur (Khera Asadpur). The works formed a part of the cluster of manufactories round a group of villages known as Sultanpur *mahal* in the Rohtak and Gurgaon districts. Sultanpur salt was of a fair quality and its analysis conducted in 1905 showed it to contain 93.6 per cent of sodium chloride. Other ingredients were magnesium and calcium salts with traces of iron.

Glass bangles.—There were about 30 families of *kacheras* engaged in this industry in Dawla in the Jhajjar tahsil, who produced bangles of rough slag glass, made by smelting alkaline earth found in Gurgaon and Mathura. The artisans in Rohtak and also in Gurgaon were all Hindus whereas in other districts of the Punjab, Muslims made bangles.

Besides the above, a sweetmeat called *reori* of Rohtak, hand fans (*pankhas*) and hackeries of Bahadurgarh, and the woollen blankets of the district are also worth mentioning. A few manufacturers at Rohtak are still engaged in preparing *reori* on a commercial scale.

Rohtak District Gazetteer, 1883-84, also mentions utensil-printing which looked like gold embroidery, wood carving (doors and door panels) and a peculiar kind of stamped cloth in gold and silver being made at Kharak, a village near Kalanaur.

Industrial progress since the Partition.—The Partition shattered the entire economic structure of the Punjab. It resulted in an unequal and unfavourable division of resources and manpower. East Punjab had to start its career with poor industrial resources and a disrupted economy. The Rohtak district as a part of it could not escape the adverse effects of this calamity. The emigration of Muslim craftsmen who formed the backbone of village industries, gave a serious blow to the rural industries and brought about their virtual extinction. On the other hand, the inflow of displaced persons in large numbers posed an immediate problem of their rehabilitation. Happily, the joint efforts of many brave, sturdy and enterprising persons migrating from

Jhang, Muzaffargarh, Lyallpur and Multan to this district coupled with Government assistance, resulted not only in their own speedy resettlement but also gave the district a conspicuous place in the industrial map of the East Punjab. The tempo of progress was accelerated by the State Government through a number of schemes, introduced for the rehabilitation of displaced persons. The establishment of two industrial areas in the district, one at Sonepat and the other at Bahadurgarh, helped in the drive towards industrial advancement. It also generated interest among the local people for participation in industrial enterprise. The Government acquired 148.5 acres of land at Sonepat and 103.7 acres at Bahadurgarh for the proposed industrial areas. Plots of different sizes, ranging from one *kanal* to five acres, were laid out. The industrial area at Sonepat and Bahadurgarh had 123 plots and 85 plots respectively. These plots were sold on freehold basis and on easy terms. No distinction was made between displaced and non-displaced persons with regard to the allotment. An era of unprecedented progress and prosperity was ushered in the Rohtak district.

A number of new small-scale and large-scale industries connected with bicycle parts, assembling of complete bicycles, hand tools, barbed-wire, sewing machine parts, automobile parts, bolts and nuts, steel re-rolling, glass and ceramics, rubber goods, food processing, paints and varnishes and cotton textiles sprang up all over the district. Its proximity to Delhi which is a great market for consumer goods, gives the district an advantageous position and has greatly contributed to its industrial growth.

SOURCE OF POWER

It has always been recognized that the presence of water power is an industrial asset. The district lacked the facility of hydel power before 1947 and used diesel power for flour grinding, oil seeds crushing, *dal* grinding, rice husking, grain grinding and saw milling industries.

Three thermal stations existed in the district before the introduction of hydroelectric power. With the availability of hydroelectric power on a more extensive scale, the use of thermal stations is on the wane.

Bahadurgarh Thermal Station.—The Government established a thermal station at Bahadurgarh in 1951. It was closed in 1953 when hydroelectric power became available to the town.

Sonepat Power Station.—Sonepat Electric Supply Company established a power station at Sonepat in 1939 but it was closed in 1953 when hydroelectric power became available to the town.

Rohtak Thermal Station.—The power supply to Rohtak town was given by the South Punjab Electric Corporation (Private) Limited which established a thermal station in 1934. The supply was switched over to hydroelectric power from Bhakra Nangal generation when bulk power was given to the Corporation in 1955. The thermal station was consequently switched off. The licence of the Corporation expired in 1964 after which Punjab State Electricity Board took over all the assets and liabilities of the Corporation after due compensation and became responsible for supply to the town.

In 1967, after the formation of the Haryana State, the hydroelectric power supply to the district came to be controlled by Rohtak and Delhi Divisions of the Haryana State Electricity Board. There were five 33 KV substations at Bahadurgarh, Sonepat, Rohtak, Sampla and Jhajjar. The power actually used was 537.98 lakh units in 1966-67.

NEW MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES [1]

There was no possibility of starting any basic industries owing to lack of mineral resources in the district. Only *kankar* which forms the raw material for the manufacture of cement is excavated at Kaliawas and Birohar in the Jhajjar tahsil. It is mostly supplied to the cement factory at Dadri. The excavation of *kankar* in 1966 amounted to 39,634 metric tonnes.

In the First and Second Five-Year Plans most of the development was in the small-scale sector. In the Third Five-Year Plan, the development of large-scale sector became conspicuous. In 1966, the following factories were operating in the district :—

Haryana Co-operative Sugar Mills Limited, Rohtak.—This unit was established in 1956 on a co-operative basis with a capital investment of Rs. 1 crore. Sugarcane is available in the neighbouring areas in abundance and it is brought to the mill in bullock carts and trucks. On an average 868 persons were employed in the factory during 1965-66. It produced sugar worth Rs. 1.20 crores and Rs. 2.10 crores in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

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1. The statistics given in this section are based on the reports of the Department concerned or the industries concerned.

The Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonepat.—It was the first large-scale unit to be established in the district in 1952 with a capital investment of Rs. 1.30 crores. It manufactures bicycles and bicycle components and parts. The progress of the unit reveals in a nut-shell the progress of bicycle manufacture in the whole of India. The bicycles manufactured here are exported to various countries. The export during 1965-66 was to the tune of Rs. 10.10 lakhs. The average employment in the factory during 1966 was 3,238 persons. It produced 3,60,205 bicycles in 1965 and 3,61,192 in 1966. The sales of the company during 1966 amounted to Rs. 534 lakhs.

H.R. Bhalla and Sons Private Limited, Bahadurgarh.—This unit was established in 1955 with a capital investment of Rs. 2.82 lakhs in the Industrial Area, Bahadurgarh. The unit manufactures bicycle frames, forks, mudguards, chain-wheels, pedals, brakes and handles. The rest of the items are purchased from the market to assemble complete bicycle. The raw material constitutes mild steel sheets and pipes. The bicycles are sold mainly in the markets of Calcutta, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The average employment of the unit during 1965-66 was 23 persons. Its production was worth Rs. 3.70 lakhs and Rs. 2.15 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

The Milton Cycle Industries Limited, Sonepat.—This unit was established in 1963 for the manufacture of bicycle parts with a capital investment of Rs. 15.88 lakhs. This unit is functioning as an ancillary to the Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonepat, for the supply of free-wheels and chains. The unit employed 307 persons in 1965-66. Its production was worth Rs. 27.85 lakhs and Rs. 40.06 lakhs during 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Bharat Steel Tubes Limited, Ganaur.—It is one of the largest steel tube mills in the country and is located at Ganaur in Sonepat tahsil, about 35 miles from Delhi, near the Grand Trunk Road. The plant has been erected on a site covering about 130 acres. It has a built-in area of over 2,00,000 square feet and accommodates two complete tube-mills and the related galvanising and finishing equipment. The mills have an annual capacity of more than 1,00,000 tonnes of pipes of 1/2" to 6" diameter for the conveyance of gas, water, oil and petroleum. The plant is designed and installed to cause a uniform product flow from the incoming strip to the finished tubing and to manufacture pipes according to the most modern technique of electric resistance welding.

Started as the most modern plant of its type, it is a striking symbol of outstanding achievement and co-operation between the United States of America and India. This project involves a capital outlay of more than Rs. 5 crores. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Agency for International Development, Washington (U.S.A.) have financed the project by advancing rupee and foreign currency loans.

This project was set up in a record time of less than eighteen months. The mills started production in the last quarter of 1965 and within a short period of commencement of production, the Company has started earning foreign exchange by exports to various foreign countries including U.K. and Australia. The total sales turn-over during 1966 was more than Rs. 2 crores out of which the value of exports alone was Rs. 50 lakhs. The average employment at the mills for single shift working was 520.

With urgent emphasis on the development of minor irrigation, electrification schemes and industrialisation in the Fourth Five-Year Plan, the plant will play an important role in the economic development of the country.

Hindustan Dowidat Tools Limited, Sonepat.—The unit was established in 1964 with a capital investment of Rs. 42.12 lakhs for the manufacture of hand tools. This is an Indo-German collaboration concern and is fitted with an excellent automatic plant. The average employment in 1965-66 was 148 persons and its production was worth Rs. 21.94 lakhs and Rs 63.48 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively. The export during 1965-66 was worth Rs. 15.46 lakhs.

Bawa Iron and Steel Works Limited, Sonepat.—This unit was established in 1953 in the Industrial Area, Sonepat. The manufacturing of steel wires and re-rolling was introduced in the district by this unit. The average employment of the unit during 1965-66 was 60 persons and it re-rolled 2,902 metric tonnes and 1,286 metric tonnes of steel in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Hindustan Engineering Works, Bahadurgarh.—The unit was established in 1959 with a capital investment of Rs. 10.50 lakhs for the manufacture of cycle parts, spokes and nipples. The average employment of the unit was 20 persons in 1965-66 and its production was worth Rs. 7.32 lakhs and Rs. 9 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Mediratta Engineering Corporation, Bahadurgarh.—The unit was established in 1955 with a capital investment of Rs. 1.31 lakhs for the manufacture of machine tools. The average employment of the unit

was 75 persons in 1965-66 and its production was worth Rs. 2.64 lakhs and Rs. 3.04 lakhs during 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Hindusthan Twyfords Limited, Bahadurgarh.—The Hindusthan Twyfords Limited established their factory at Bahadurgarh in 1960 for the manufacture of vitreous china sanitary-wares and accessories. The pilot production was started in July 1962 and gradually thereafter the tunnel kilns operating on furnace oil were put into commission and the production increased to 3,000 metric tonnes per annum. Starting with a capital investment of Rs. 1.25 crores, the factory along with residential quarters is spread over an area of 55 acres.

The raw-material comprises mainly different types of clays, quartz and felspar and is obtained from nearby sources though some specialized clay comes from a distance. The sanitary-ware industry requires semi-skilled and skilled labour throughout the production operations. The wares after casting and up to the time they are placed on kiln cars for firing have to be carefully handled as the least amount of shock or knocking can cause damage.

Hindusthan Twyfords is the pioneer in India in vitreous china which is most hygienic. Its products are sold throughout India and have also entered the export market at a modest scale. The mark of the Indian Standards Institute promotes the sale of its products. The average employment of the factory was 542 persons and its production was worth Rs. 74 lakhs and Rs. 85 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively. It is contemplated to increase the capacity of the kiln to a very considerable extent in the near future.

Hindusthan National Glass Manufacturing Company Limited, Bahadurgarh.—This unit was established in 1964 for the production of glass bottles and pressed tumblers with a capital investment of Rs. 81 lakhs. The raw-material used is silica sand, felspar, barytes, limestone and marble powder. It is obtained from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The glass bottles for Delhi Milk Supply Scheme and Coca-Cola Organization constitute the main consumption of its finished goods in Northern India. The unit employed 501 persons in 1965-66. The production was worth Rs. 67.51 lakhs and Rs. 87 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Indian Rockwool Company Private Limited, Sonepat.—This unit was established in 1961 with a capital investment of Rs. 13.16 lakhs for the manufacture of glass and mineral wool (rockwool) products. The rockwool is used in thermos bottles and refrigerators. The raw

material used is waste glass pieces. The unit meets the defence requirements of glass wool products to a great extent. The average employment of the unit during 1965-66 was 71 persons. Its production was worth Rs. 5.62 lakhs and Rs. 1.27 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Aggarwal Glass Company, Sonepat.—This unit was established in 1955 with a capital investment of Rs.46,000 for the production of glass phials and glass bottles of various sizes. The average employment of the unit during 1965-66 was 212 persons. Its production was worth Rs. 5.72 lakhs and Rs. 5.43 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Organo Chemical Industries, Sonepat.—This unit was started in 1957 on a small-scale basis for the reclamation of rubber. The production shot up from Rs. 16.60 lakhs in 1963-64 to Rs. 26.40 lakhs in 1965-66 after which this organization was stepped up to a large-scale unit. During the Indo-Pakistan conflict, it was considerably handicapped for want of imported chemicals but as a result of research import substitutions were developed which not only solved their immediate problems but also avoided the necessity of further imports of those chemicals. Wealth is being produced from waste. The capital investment of the unit was Rs. 9.93 lakhs and its average employment during 1965-66 was 198 persons. The production was worth Rs. 22.53 lakhs and Rs. 26.40 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Mohan Spinning Mill, Rohtak.—The mill was established in August 1963 and is located on the Circular Road, Rohtak. It was started with a capital investment of Rs. 78 lakhs for the spinning of yarn from cotton. Cotton is procured from Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh and the cotton yarn produced in the mill is sold throughout Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

The average employment was 501 persons during 1966. Its production was worth Rs. 75.26 lakhs and Rs. 102.27 lakhs during 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Oils and Allied Private Limited, Sonepat.—The unit was established in 1965 at Sonepat for the production of rice bran and other extracted oils. The capital investment of the unit was Rs. 11 lakhs. The average employment during 1965-66 was 49 persons and its production was worth Rs. 21.22 lakhs and Rs. 30.57 lakhs in

1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively. The export of oil was worth Rs. 1.95 lakhs.

Seth Ram Narain Flour Mills, Bahadurgarh.- This roller flour mill was established in 1963. It is situated in the industrial area along the Delhi-Rohtak road. The capital investment of the unit was Rs. 5 lakhs. The average employment during 1965-66 was 24 persons and its production was worth Rs. 8.8 lakhs and Rs. 6.18 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

Ved Lakshami Oil and Flour Mills, Rohtak.- The mill was established in 1957 with a capital investment of Rs. 2.85 lakhs. The average employment of the unit in 1965-66 was 51 persons and its production was worth Rs. 31.61 lakhs.

Besides the above, the following two outstanding units are likely to come up in the near future :-

Electrical Construction and Equipment Company Limited, Sonepat.- The unit has been licensed for the manufacture of transformers and air-space breakers. The construction of the factory building is in progress. This unit is likely to save considerable foreign exchange.

Angli (India), Sonepat.- The unit is proposed to be set up with Indo-British collaboration for the manufacture of ready-made garments. The unit has acquired land at Sonepat for the construction of a factory.

Small-scale Industries

Agricultural implements and machine tools.—This is an important industry and it has made a steady increase in the production of agricultural implements and machine tools. There is a great scope for the manufacture of agricultural implements in view of the special stress laid by the Government on agricultural production. There is a concentration of such units at Sampla but new units are coming up in Sonepat sub-division as well. The production of machine tools is also progressing and several units have come up at Bahadurgarh and Sonepat.

In 1965-66 there were altogether 146 units engaged in manufacturing agricultural implements and machine tools. Their production was worth Rs. 38.64 lakhs and they employed on an average 737 persons.

Cycle parts.—This is an important ancillary industry which got special impetus due to the location of the Atlas Cycle Industries at Sonepat. The industry has reached practically a saturation point

and there does not appear to be any scope for further development. The number of units for manufacturing cycle parts decreased to 4 during 1965-66 with an average employment of 142 persons. The production during 1965-66 was worth Rs. 8.13 lakhs.

Sewing machine parts.—The sewing machine parts industry is another important light engineering industry. Due to keen competition in the market, the industry remained more or less static and in 1965-66 there were only 3 units with an average employment of 10 persons. The production was worth Rs. 1.53 lakhs.

Steel re-rolling.—Though there is a great market for the re-rolled steel due to an overall spurt in the construction work, the industrial units in the small-scale sector have not registered adequate progress. In 1965-66, there were 2 units with an average employment of 44 persons. The production during that year was 1,014 metric tonnes.

Water pipe fittings.—This is a new industry in the State and a unit for the construction of water pipe fittings was established in 1964-65. The unit employed 23 persons and its production was worth Rs. 5.14 lakhs.

Bolts and nuts.—Rohtak specializes in the production of precision turned parts. Components of automobiles, refrigerators, etc., are also manufactured. There were 7 units employing about 168 persons in 1965-66. Their production was worth Rs. 15.93 lakhs.

Electrical goods.—The industry has stepped up its production considerably during 1965-66 and there is scope for further expansion due to liberalisation of import of non-ferrous metals. The existing units working at many places in the district manufacture cables and other electrical goods. There were 12 units employing about 162 persons and their production was worth Rs. 17.47 lakhs during 1965-66.

Scientific instruments.—The manufacture of scientific instruments started in 1960-61 and there was concentration of 4 units at Bahadurgarh. There are prospects of further development of this industry. The 4 units employed about 44 persons in 1965-66 and their production was worth Rs. 4.42 lakhs.

Surgical instruments and hospital wares.—Stainless steel is used for the manufacture of surgical instruments. The industry suffered due to the scarcity of stainless steel and many of such units were closed in 1965-66. Enamel wares for hospitals are, however, manufactured.

There were 7 units working for the production of hospital wares with an average employment of 87 persons and their production was worth Rs. 5.30 lakhs.

Powerloom weaving (woollen, cotton and art silk).—Cotton yarn, velvet, *niwar*, tape and *soot gola* are the main items which are manufactured. *Niwar* and tape weaving are mainly confined to Sonepat. Besides, there are some units at Rohtak and Bahadurgarh which undertake the manufacture of bed sheets, art silk, etc. There were 14 units employing 96 persons and the production was worth Rs. 6.98 lakhs during 1965-66.

Rubber goods.—The district has made a considerable headway in the production of rubber goods during 1965-66 and the tempo of production is likely to continue unabated. Rubber belting, rubber tubes, rubber sheeting and rubber auto goods figure prominently in the production. The concentration of these units is at Bahadurgarh and Sonepat. There were 9 units in 1965-66 employing 126 persons. The production during the year was worth Rs. 28.07 lakhs.

Automobile parts.—This is an expanding industry and many units are coming up for the manufacture of automobile parts. The existing units are increasing their production and some new units are also being established. Besides traditional casting, malleable casting is also proposed to be undertaken by one of the newly established units. In 1965-66, there were 16 units with an average employment of 273 persons and their annual production was Rs. 28.47 lakhs.

Plastic goods and bakelites.—The production of plastic and bakelite goods has gone up but due to keen competition, the margin of profit has dwindled which is acting as a sort of deterrent. One of the new units has started the manufacture of plastic crockery which is likely to become very popular. In 1965-66, there were 11 units employing 73 persons. The total production was worth Rs. 14.17 lakhs.

Paints and varnishes.—During the past few years, the industry has made a spectacular headway. There were 12 units for the manufacture of paints and varnishes and these employed 97 persons. The total production during 1965-66 was worth Rs. 21.03 lakhs.

Typewriters.—A unit at Bahadurgarh was started in 1965-66 for the manufacture of portable typewriters with a capital investment

of Rs. 1.32 lakhs. This is the only small-scale industrial unit in the country for the manufacture of portable typewriters. It is an Indo-German collaboration concern which has plans of expansion in the near future. In 1965-66, the number of persons employed was 38 and the production was worth Rs. 1.45 lakhs.

There are many other industries in the small-scale sector running in the district. It is not possible to detail them all. However, detailed information industry-wise about the number of units, average employment and production during the years 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66, given at Table XVI of Appendix, shows that industry is making headway in the district.

Cottage Industries

Handloom weaving.—Handloom weaving is an important industry in the district and there are weavers almost in every village. The industry gave employment to about 3,089 persons in 1966. There were 68 co-operative societies of handloom weavers functioning in the district which procured yarn collectively.

Leather tanning.—It is an old cottage industry which continues to function in villages and urban areas. Tanning is mostly done by Khatiks and Rehgars and the main centres are Rohtak, Sonepat, Maham and Jhajjar. Efforts are being made to organize this activity on a co-operative basis. It is estimated that more than 246 persons were engaged in this industry and they tanned about 5.20 lakhs hides during 1965-66.

Shoes and leather goods.—This is an important cottage industry mostly in the hands of Harijans. There were 4,178 units employing 5,001 persons in 1966. The co-operative societies of shoemakers numbered 106. An effort is being made to bring all shoemakers of the district in the co-operative fold.

Oil-seeds crushing.—It is an important seasonal industry. Most of these units are of composite type and carry on this industry along with other various items of production. The main centres are Rohtak, Bhadurgarh and Sonepat. There were 54 units out of which 29 were organized on a co-operative basis. The production during 1965-66 was worth Rs. 0.69 lakh.

Rope and *ban* making.—There were 316 units employing about 428 persons engaged in the production of rope and *ban*. The production during 1965-66 was worth Rs. 1.52 lakhs.

Gur add Khandsari.—There were 391 units employing 426 persons engaged in the production of *gur* and *khandsari*. The co-operative societies in this industry were 27. The total production of the industry was worth Rs. 12.82 lakhs.

Jail Industries.—These have also developed. During the period between 1960 and 1966 the total output has increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 98,148.

Government Assistance to Industries

The industrial development of the district is looked after by the District Industries Officer, Rohtak, who is controlled by the Director of Industries, Haryana, at Chandigarh. He is assisted by 1 Assistant District Industries Officer stationed at Sonepat, 1 Senior Inspector, 6 Junior Inspectors and 15 Block Level Extension Officers (Industries).

The Government helped the entrepreneurs in a number of ways; by financial assistance, through the supply of machinery on hire-purchase basis and raw material at controlled rate, by marketing assistance and technical training.

Financial assistance.—The Department of Industries continues to provide financial assistance in the form of loans and subsidies under the provisions of the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, for the development of industries. The following amounts were advanced in the district during 1963-64 to 1965-66:—

Year	Loan	Subsidy
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1963-64	2,33,000	6,000
1964-65	3,70,450*	10,850
1965-66	2,71,200*	5,175

The provisions of the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, were, however, substantially liberalised after the Partition of the country. A new

*Rs. 65,000 and Rs. 99,950 were also advanced to ex-goldsmiths to rehabilitate them in some productive capacity in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

scheme of advancing loans up to Rs. 1,000 against a certificate of credit-worthiness was introduced for the benefit of village artisans and craftsmen. The amount of allocations under this head was substantially enhanced. The Punjab Khadi and Village Industries Board, Chandigarh, also advanced loans and grants for the promotion of village industry. The amount given during 1963-64 to 1965-66 is given in Table XVII of Appendix.

The Government has established the Haryana Financial Corporation for financial assistance to large and medium scale industries. The State Bank of India has also extended to small-scale concerns in the district the scheme of advancing loans against the security of raw-material and finished goods.

Supply of machinery on hire-purchase basis.—The National Small Industries Corporation, an agency founded and controlled by Government of India, supplies machinery to small-scale units on the recommendations of State Government. The cost of the machinery and equipment is realized in easy instalments, spread over a number of years, after an initial payment of 20 to 40 per cent of the amount.

Supply of raw-material.—The supply of raw-materials[1] like iron and steel, coal, coke, copper and zinc, is regularly made to quota-holders and deserving industrialists after proper assessment of their requirements. The requirements of the industrialists for imported raw-material and equipment are assessed by the State Government and recommendations made to the Central Government for import licences.

Marketing assistance.—To provide marketing facilities to cottage and small-scale concerns, the State Government has started a number of emporia where products of these industries are displayed for sale. The State Government also organises industrial exhibitions from time to time to achieve higher standards of workmanship.

Quality marking.—The Quality Marking Centre for engineering goods was established at Sonepat in 1962 with the object of drafting standards for raw-materials, semi-finished goods and end-products and ensuring conformity through quality control by stage and final inspections. This Centre also renders assistance to units manufacturing engineering goods. About 60 units are registered with it for

1. Pig iron and coal were decontrolled in 1965-66. Later in February 1967, defective and black corrugated sheets were also decontrolled.

assistance in respect of technical standardisation, export promotion and other facilities.

Industrial estates.—Two industrial estates, one each at Sonepat and Rai, were established to assist those entrepreneurs who did not want to make heavy investment in factory building. The industrialists were let out sheds of various sizes together with the required power load and they immediately installed the machinery and started production.

Industrial Estate, Sonepat, was established in 1962 on an area of 3.15 acres. It has 18 sheds, 16 allotted to various industrialists and 2 to Quality Marking Centre, Sonepat.

Rural Industrial Estate, Rai, was established in 1964. It is spread over an area of 2 acres and is located on the G. T. road. It has 8 sheds, 6 of which have been allotted to industrial units and the remaining 2 to the Rural Industrial Development Centre, Rai.

Industrial training.—The Government has established a number of institutes for industrial training and technical education in the district in order to provide training in various crafts. The details about technical institutes and courses/crafts in which training is imparted, are given in Chapter on 'Education and Culture'.

To provide the latest technical know-how to rural artisans, 4 demonstration parties; 3 for hosiery goods, and 1 for soap making are functioning in Rohtak, Kalanaur, Rai and Sonepat blocks. These impart training for a period of one year.

A community project centre for imparting training to Scheduled Castes in leather goods manufacture is also functioning in the district. It is a mobile unit and moves from one block to another according to requirements. The duration of the training in the centre is one year.

Three rural industrial development centres for blacksmithery and carpentry, hosiery goods, and leather goods were also functioning at Rai, Beri and Jhajjar respectively.

Two heat treatment centres started functioning in 1964-65, one each at Sonepat and Bahadurgarh. These centres supply common facility in respect of heat treatment to various manufacturers of engineering goods.[1]

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1. The Heat Treatment Centre, Sonepat, was shifted to Faridabad in 1968.

Role of the Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement has been making a considerable headway in the industrial sphere and the development became more marked after the Partition. The activities of the Co-operative Department are confined to small-scale and cottage industries, as the following table pertaining to 1966 indicates:—

Industry	Number of societies
I Small-scale industries	250
II Cottage industries	253
Leather tanning	15
Handloom weaving	68
Shoe and leather goods	106
Village oil and *ghani*	29
Ban and rope making	5
Gur and *khandsari*	27
Pottery	3

The value of goods produced by these societies amounted to Rs. 22.42 lakhs and Rs. 29.27 lakhs in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

The District Co-operative Industrial Union was registered in 1959. A loan of Rs. 46,875 was advanced by the State Government to the Union in 1959-60 at 2½ per cent interest repayable in 10 years. Besides, a subsidy of Rs. 2,500 was also given for the establishment. The Union supplies cheap raw-material to industrial co-operative societies.

Co-operation as a working principal has been applied in the case of Haryana Co-operative Sugar Mills Limited, Rohtak. This concern was established in 1956 on a co-operative basis with a capital investment of one crore rupees. One half of the investment was subscribed by the shareholders, 20 per cent by the State Government and 30 per cent by the Government of India.

Industrial Labour

The industrial labour is drawn mostly from villages and most labourers return to their villages after work. The migration of

skilled Muslim labourers to West Pakistan was a set-back to village and cottage industries. This shortage was made good by the Government through its programmes. Displaced persons and local labourers were thus made available in various crafts and skills. The need of developing large-scale and small-scale industries was also kept in mind while opening industrial and vocational training institutes.

The sudden closures of small-scale factories occurring now and then due to non-availability of raw-material and lack of funds caused great hardship to labour but the establishment of large-scale units during Third Five-Year Plan provided a steady employment.

The average rates of wages of industrial workers are as under:

Category	Wages
	(Rs.)
Unskilled	90
Semi-skilled (Grade I)	100
Semi-skilled (Grade II)	115
Skilled (Grade I)	130
Skilled (Grade II)	150

There is no hard and fast rule governing the rates of wages and the principle of supply and demand operates at the time of employment.

The industrial workers have organised themselves into unions. In 1966, the following unions existed in the district:—

1. Engineering Workers Union, Rohtak
2. Hindusthan Twyford Workers Union, Bahadurgarh
3. Bahadurgarh Potteries & General Labour Union, Bahadurgarh
4. Bahadurgarh Mazdoor Sabha, Bahadurgarh
5. Atlas Cycle Workers Union, Sonepat
6. Atlas Mazdoor Union, Sonepat
7. Atlas Mazdoor Sangh, Sonepat

8. General Industrial Workers Union, Sonepat
9. Haryana Co-operative Sugar Mill Workers Union, Rohtak
10. Mohan Spinning Mill Mazdoor Sabha, Rohtak
11. Aggarwal Glass Workers Union, Sonepat
12. Loh Udyog Karamchari Sangh, Bahadurgarh
13. Household and General Mill Workers Union, Sonepat
14. Vishkarma Carpenters Workers Union, Rohtak
15. Ara Machine Workers Union, Rohtak

The welfare of labour is attracting the attention of the Government. The Employees' State Insurance Scheme and Employees' Provident Funds Scheme has been applied with suitable benefit. The industrialists, on their own, are also conscious of the welfare of labour and many large-scale units are providing medical, social, residential, recreational and other facilities. The details of the provisions made for assuring good working conditions under labour legislation enforced in the district may be seen in Chapter on 'Other Social Services'.

General.—The outlook of future industrial development in the district appears to be bright. Most industrial concerns are on their feet and have been able to steer through the recession. Hardly any concern of note has had to close down.