

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Miscellaneous occupations in rural and urban areas constitute a significant part of the life of the district. These include members of public and defence services and all those working in the fields of education, medicine, law, engineering, transport and domestic service.

Public Services

There has been a considerable increase in the number of jobs in the public services under the State Government, Central Government and local bodies. After 1947 several new departments came into being to carry out developmental activities. In 1961, the number of persons employed in public services in administrative departments and offices of State Government, Central Government, quasi-Government organizations, municipalities, etc., was 9,090 (9,058 men and 32 women).

The persons in the employ of the Government and local bodies are given a dearness allowance related to the cost of living. Class IV employees are provided with liveries. Since there are a few government houses, only the seniormost employees are allotted these houses against a deduction of 10 per cent of their pay as rent of the house. Essential services like the railways, police and medical and public health are usually provided with residential accommodation.

Loans for the construction of houses under the Low and Middle Income Group Housing Schemes and for the purchase of vehicles are granted to State Government employees. They are also given an interest-free advance from time to time for the purchase of wheat.

Government employees are not restricted from forming associations or unions to safeguard their recognised service interests. There are several such unions : the Provincial Civil Service (Executive) Officers' Association, Government College Lecturers' Association, Government School Teachers' Union, Municipal Employees' Union, and Municipal Sweepers' Union. There is also an association of the employees of the State Bank of India.

Defence Services

The Jats, Ahirs and Rajputs in the district have contributed a large number of recruits to the different branches of the defence services. The district played a prominent role during the two World Wars. In World War II, next to Rawalpindi, the Rohtak district contributed the highest number of recruits (56,036) among the districts of the pre-Partition Punjab. The recruits mostly came from the Jhajjar tahsil where many families could boast of having provided more than 3 recruits each.

The number of military pensioners in 1910 was 866, who were paid Rs. 81,957 as pension. In 1936, their number rose to 6,238 and the amount of their pension increased to Rs. 9,53,011. However, in 1950, the number of pensioners fell to 2,487 and the amount of pension drawn to Rs. 3,45,751. This was as a consequence of the exodus of Muslim Rajput pensioners to Pakistan. The number rose again and in 1965-66, there were 10,730 pensioners drawing an amount of Rs. 10,28,580.

The number of ex-servicemen and the families of serving personnel in 1957 was 25,000 and 10,300 respectively. Tahsilwise figures for 1965-66 are as follows :—

Rohtak	6,796
Sonepat	3,851
Jhajjar	12,009
Gohana	,294
Total (for district)	<u>26,950</u>

The Jats, Ahirs, Rajputs, Gujars and Brahmans form an overwhelming majority of ex-servicemen. They are mostly concentrated in villages Asauda, Badli, Chhara, Chimni, Dighal, Dubaldhan, Gochhi, Kosli, Mandothi, Majra, Nahar and Salhawas of the Jhajjar tahsil and village Nahri of the Sonepat tahsil.

A large number of soldiers from this district fought in NEFA and Ladakh when China invaded Indian territories in 1962 and against Pakistan in 1965 when it started hostilities. The

following received gallantry awards for distinguished service on these occasions :—

Recipient	Resident of village/ tahsil	Award	Remarks
Chinese Aggression			
Major M.S. Chaudhri	Dubaldhan Majra/ Jhajjar	Maha Vir Chakra	Posthumous
Sqn. Leader J. M. Nath	Barkatabad/Jhajjar	Maha Vir Chakra	
Sqn. Leader A. S. William	Originally : Chhara/ Jhajjar (Presently : Karol Bagh, New Delhi)	Vir Chakra	
Hav. Dharam Singh	Gobhana Majri/ Jhajjar	Vir Chakra	
Naik Munshi Ram	Bhadana/Sonepat	Vir Chakra	Posthumous
Jamadar Surja	Bairampur/Jhajjar	Vir Chakra	Posthumous
G.D.R. Sardar Singh	Jasaur Kheri/Rohtak	Vir Chakra	Posthumous
Sepoy/N.A. Dharam Pal	Nirthan/Sonepat	Vir Chakra	Posthumous
Pakistani Aggression			
Brigadier Khem Karan Singh	Bhadani/Jhajjar	Maha Vir Chakra	
Major-General Sarup Singh Kalan	Salhawas/Jhajjar	Maha Vir Chakra	
Major Madan Mohan Singh Bakshi	Sonepat	Maha Vir Chakra	
Major R.K. Bedi	Sonepat	Vir Chakra	
2/Lt. Ravinder Singh Bedi	Sonepat	Vir Chakra	
Major Sat Parkash Verma	Jatheri/Sonepat	Vir Chakra	Posthumous

Recipient	Resident of village/ tahsil	Award	Remarks
Subedar Khazan Singh	Mandothi/Jhajjar	Vir Chakra	
Subedar Chhotu Ram	Kheri Hoshdarpur/ Jhajjar	Vir Chakra	
Subedar Pale Ram	Daboda Kalan/ Jhajjar	Vir Chakra	

Educational Personnel

In 1961, the number of educational personnel in colleges, schools and similar other institutions of non-technical type was 5,946 (4,794 men and 1,152 women). By March 31, 1966, this number rose to 6,877 (5,104 men and 1,773 women). There is dearth of trained teachers, especially lady teachers, in the rural areas. Many of the male teachers working in rural schools reside in nearby urban areas mainly because of the non-availability of suitable residential accommodation in the villages. This diminishes their usefulness to some extent as they cannot take a full share in the life of the village community.

As the emoluments of teachers working in Government institutions and other amenities are better than those provided by private institutions, an attempt is being made by the State Education Department to put the staff working in private institutions on an equal footing. Subject to certain restrictions, the Education Department has allowed the government school teachers to engage in private tuitions which help them to supplement their income. Teachers are freely permitted and even encouraged to sit for higher examinations in order to improve their academic qualifications.

The government college lecturers and government school teachers have associations of their own. Teachers in private institutions have also their union, which is known as the Rohtak District Privately Managed Teachers' Union.

Medical Profession

According to 1961 Census, 1,807 persons including 272 women were engaged in public health and medical services rendered by organizations such as hospitals, nursing homes, maternity and child welfare clinics

as also by Hakimi, Unani, Ayurvedic, Allopathic and Homeopathic practitioners. These also included persons engaged in veterinary services. Private medical practitioners normally dispense their own medicines. Some of them charge consultation fee but generally the cost of the medicines supplied during the treatment covers the consultation fee also. The income of such doctors and physicians varies according to their competence and reputation for efficiency.

Shri Mast Nath Ayurvedic Degree College, Asthal Bohar and Medical College, Rohtak, were started in 1957 and 1961 respectively. With the opening of these institutions, more and more people will receive training in the medical profession and in course of time the number of medical practitioners in the district is likely to rise.

The associations formed in Rohtak town by members of the medical profession are: Indian Medical Association, Rohtak Branch; District Pharmacists Association; District Chemists Association; and District Rohtak Ayurvedic and Unani Sabha. These associations have been formed to disseminate professional knowledge among their members, as also to observe standards of professional ethics, and to promote their social and economic condition.

Legal Profession

This profession includes barristers, advocates, pleaders, attorneys, law assistants, munshis, etc. According to the 1961 Census, the number of persons engaged in legal services was 315. This number did not show any females engaged in the profession.

During the last decades of 19th century there were only 3 non-graduate lawyers in the whole of the district. Finding the legal field vacant, a few lawyers from other places were attracted to start legal practice at Rohtak. With the spread of education, however, the position changed and the number of lawyers rose from 18 in 1918 to about 200 in 1967.

The district is not very litigious. After the Partition, a special kind of work concerning evacuee property in rural and urban areas had cropped up which is still continuing, though to a reduced extent. The agrarian and rent restriction laws have created a fresh crop of cases between the land-owners and the tenants.

The legal profession, barring a few established lawyers, in the district is not lucrative, especially to the novices. Other things apart, the clients generally prefer to engage a lawyer of their own caste or

one belonging to their own area, and this greatly hinders competition. The exorbitant and excessive increase in stamp duty has also affected litigation. Delays in the final settlement of disputes and the incidence of high taxation and rising prices of daily necessities have also discouraged litigation.

Engineering Services

The persons engaged in engineering services are mostly employed at the district headquarters in the offices of the Executive Engineers, Public Health Division; Rohtak Provincial Division; Rohtak Division, Western Jumna (Yamuna) Canal; Haryana Division, Western Jumna (Yamuna) Canal; Rohtak Drainage Division; and Haryana State Electricity Board, Rohtak Division. A few persons also work as engineering contractors and architects.

The engineers play an important role in the development and well-being of the people in the fields of agriculture, industry and transport. The industrial development of the district is coupled with road development, transmission of electricity and other engineering activities. The district has no engineering college, though two private polytechnics in Rohtak town and Government Polytechnic at Jhajjar prepare students for a diploma in engineering.

Transporters

Transport requires the services of people working on railways, ferries, buses, motor vehicles and all those who drive bullock carts and attend pack animals. In 1961, 6,181 persons were employed in all these transport activities at different levels.

Rickshaw-pullers mostly appeared on the scene after the Partition. Most of them obtain rickshaws on hire and pay Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 2 a day to the rickshaw-owners. Their economic condition is not satisfactory since on an average they earn only Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 per mensem. They have recently formed a Rickshaw-Pullers' Union to safeguard their interests.

Many tonga drivers own their tongas, but tongas are no longer in great demand in towns owing to the availability of rickshaws, though a good many of the primitive type still carry passengers to the countryside. The use of tempo (three-wheeled auto-vehicle) as a cheap and swift means of transport, both for passengers and goods, has gained much popularity during recent years.

Transport workers, viz. drivers, conductors, cleaners, etc., have been employed by transport companies. They are provided with facilities like uniforms, bonus and overtime allowances. Their economic and social lot is better than that of rickshaw-pullers and tonga drivers and they have unions for safeguarding their professional interests.

There are a few private motor cars. The owners usually do not keep chauffeurs but drive their vehicles themselves.

Personal Services

Among these are included barbers, washermen, launderers and tailors.

Barbers.—Their number in 1951 was 2,375 and 3,272 in 1961. It also included hair dressers and related workers. In urban areas the old practice of a family barber has almost become extinct. People go to haircutting saloons for service. In villages, however, the old practice of a family barber is still in vogue and he can be seen on certain social ceremonies. He also attends to his *yajmans* (patrons) at their residence and gets remuneration in kind at the time of harvesting. There is no lady hair dressing saloon in the district as the number of ladies desiring hair dressing is negligible. The wife of the barber called *nain* does some sort of hair cleaning and hair dressing of women in villages.

Washermen.—In 1951, their number was 462 which fell in 1961 to 418 but again rose to 700 in 1966 and included launderers and dry cleaners. Washermen mostly serve the urban areas for the villagers do their washing themselves. They generally charge 20 paise per article of clothing. They attend to the customers at their residence. The launderers on the other hand run regular shops and do not undertake home delivery. They charge higher rates. Still, because of their quick and efficient service the launderers are gaining popularity over washermen. The laundry owners employ washermen for washing and additional persons for ironing. Laundering has no doubt become a profitable business. Launderers engage themselves in dry cleaning in winter months and switch over to laundry business for the remaining period of the year. Dry cleaners charge according to a schedule of rates. For example, a woollen suit of 3 pieces is dry cleaned for Rs. 3.

Tailors.—Their number rose from 2,194 in 1951 to 5,641 in 1961 and to 6,500 in 1966. These figures include cutters, furriers and related workers. In urban areas the tailors make shirts, bushirts, pants,

pyjamas and suits while tailors in rural areas generally make trousers, *kurtas*, suits and *ghagaris*. With the passage of time the style of clothes has undergone a complete change. The *ghagaris* and *chandnas* are being replaced by *salwars* and *kurtas*. In urban areas also the style of clothes keeps on changing with the change in fashion. The tailoring charges vary from place to place and shop to shop depending upon the stitching skill of the tailor and the status of the customers. The usual charges for stitching garments in urban and rural areas are as follows :—

Type of garment	Stitching charges	
	Urban	Rural
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Gents—		
Shirt	2.00	1.50
Trousers	4.50	4.50
Bushirt	4.00	3.00
<i>Kurta</i>	1.25	1.00
Woollen Coat (with trimmings)	40.00	35.00
Woollen Suit (with trimmings)	55.00	50.00
Ladies—		
<i>Ghagari</i>	..	3.00
Shirt	2.50	2.50
<i>Salwar</i>	1.50	1.50
Cotton Suit (shirt and <i>salwar</i>)	4.00	4.00
Woollen Suit (shirt and <i>salwar</i>)	5.00	5.00
Coat (Woollen)	22.50	20.00

The workers engaged by tailors are paid Rs. 70 to Rs. 125 per month according to their skill and experience. Those engaged on contract basis are paid 60 per cent of the amount charged from the customers.

The employment of such workers on a monthly or contract basis in rural areas is out of the question. Most of the tailors have their own sewing machines and work in their shops and do not ordinarily call on customers.

In the past there used to be family tailors in villages who, besides receiving some cash for tailoring, got food grains at harvesting. They used to visit their patrons to obtain orders but this custom is fast disappearing.

Self-employed Persons

These include artisans like *julahas* (weavers), *mochis* (shoemakers), sweepers, *kumhars* (potters) and workers like hand-cart-pullers, street pedlars, hawkers, rickshaw-pullers, tonga drivers, railway station porters and vendors.

The *julahas*, the *mochis*, the sweepers, the *kumhars*, etc., are to be found all over the district. Most of them in the rural areas help families in their agricultural activities and on the occasion of marriage and other ceremonies. The sweepers in urban areas, engaged for scavenging, get Re. 1 or Rs. 2 per month from each family in addition to a *chapati* per day and gifts on auspicious occasions.

Tonga drivers, rickshaw-men, street pedlars, hawkers, porters and vendors eke out a hard living. Their number in the district was as follows:—

Particulars	Number	
	1961	1965
Licensed hand-carts/street pedlars/ hawkers/luggage cartmen	748	947
Station Porters	18	20
Station Vendors	25	40

Domestic Services

The persons engaged in domestic services include domestic servants, cooks, etc. Their number in 1961 was 8,401 (3,749 males and 4,652 females).

Most people in villages, except the local landlords, do their domestic work themselves and do not employ servants. In urban areas the upper middle class and the rich often employ domestic servants. A

domestic servant is paid between Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 per month in addition to boarding and lodging. With the opening of other avenues which provide increasing opportunities of employment elsewhere, domestic servants are becoming scarce in relation to demand.

Women do not prefer whole-time domestic employment. Some of them from poor families, undertake part-time domestic service to supplement their meagre income. They undertake washing of clothes and cleaning of utensils and are generally paid Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a month for working one to two hours a day.