

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Of the total population of 10,98,405 persons in the Ambala district, 3,00,738 were engaged in some kind of economic activity according to 1971 Census. Thus workers were 27.4 per cent of the total population of the district as against 26.4 per cent for the state as a whole. The district ranked third as regards the labour participation rate. Of the total workers, 2,09,105 (2,05,673 males and 3,432 females), i.e., 69.5 per cent were living in rural areas, while 91,633 (86,589 males and 5,044 females), i.e., 30.5 per cent lived in urban areas.

In the working population, males (97.2 per cent) predominated the females (2.8 per cent). Again, a higher percentage of (5.5 per cent) females worked in the urban areas than in the rural areas (1.6 per cent).

On the basis of economic activities pursued, the working population in the district has been classified into nine categories as shown in the table on next page .

Industrial Category	Number of Workers									Percentage to Total Workers
	Urban			Rural			Total			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Cultivators ..	2,705	308	3,013	96,504	353	96,857	99,209	661	99,870	33.21
2. Agricultural labourers ..	1,529	45	1,574	46,025	460	46,485	47,554	505	48,059	16.00
3. Livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards and allied activities ..	597	23	620	2,765	35	2,800	3,362	58	3,420	1.14
4. Mining and quarrying ..	—	—	—	438	4	442	438	4	442	0.15
5. Manufacturing										
(a) Household industry ..	1,868	237	2,105	6,720	534	7,254	8,588	771	9,359	3.11
(b) Other than household industry ..	21,206	303	21,509	11,664	466	12,130	32,870	769	33,639	11.18
6. Construction ..	3,066	219	3,285	3,409	275	3,684	6,475	494	6,969	2.32
7. Trade and commerce ..	19,895	166	20,061	6,923	54	6,977	26,818	220	27,038	9.00
8. Transport, storage and communications ..	13,457	164	13,621	4,063	5	4,068	17,520	169	17,689	5.88
9. Other services ..	22,266	3,579	25,845	27,162	1,246	28,408	49,428	4,825	54,253	18.04
Total : ..	86,589 (94.5%)	5,044 (5.5%)	91,633 (100%)	2,05,673 (98.4%)	3,432 (1.6%)	2,09,105 (100.0%)	2,92,262 (97.2%)	8,476 (2.8%)	3,00,738 (100%)	

The above table indicates that in 1971, the cultivators and agricultural labourers constituted as much as 33.2 and 16 per cent of the total working force, respectively. Though both these categories taken together formed only 13.5 per cent of the total population of the district ; yet including their dependents, it can be said that a sizeable section of the population of the district was dependent directly or indirectly on agriculture. The number of male cultivators and agricultural labourers far exceeded the females.

The next important source of livelihood in the district was other services engaging 4.9 per cent of the total population and 18.04 per cent of the working population. The proportion of males in this category of workers was much higher than of females both in rural and urban areas.

Persons engaged in manufacturing (other than household industry) constituted 3.1 per cent of the total population and 11.2 per cent of the working population. The proportion of female workers was very low in urban as well as rural areas.

Trade and commerce provided livelihood to 2.5 per cent of the total population and 9.0 per cent of the working population. Transport, storage and communications provided employment to 1.6 per cent of the total population and 5.9 per cent of the working population. The percentages of the persons getting their livelihood from household industry ; construction ; and livestock, forestry, plantation, etc., were 0.85, 0.63 and 0.31 of the total population and 3.1, 2.3 and 1.14 of the working population, respectively.

As against 66.7 per cent in the state, 50.3 per cent of the working population was engaged in agricultural and allied pursuits in the district. The main concentration of such workers was in rural areas, the number in urban areas being negligible. The same remark applies to household industrial workers. In urban areas the working population was primarily engaged in manufacturing (other than household industry), trade and commerce transport and construction and other services.

The following table brings out the behaviour of the working force in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors in the district and in the state as a whole according to 1971 Census. The primary sector includes cultivators, agricultural labourers and workers engaged in livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards and allied activities ; the secondary sector includes workers engaged in mining and quarrying, household industry, manufacturing and construction and the tertiary sector includes workers

engaged in trade and commerce, transport, storage and communications and other services :

Sector	Ambala District		Haryana	
	Number	Percentage to Total Workers	Number	Percentage to Total Workers
Primary ..	151,349	50.3	1,768,913	66.07
Secondary ..	50,409	16.8	318,154	12.0
Tertiary ..	98,980	32.9	566,926	21.3
Total : ..	300,738	100.0	2,653,993	100.0

An analysis of the above table reveals that the sectoral behaviour of the working force in the Ambala district can be easily distinguished from that of the state as a whole. While about seven-tenth of the working population in the state was engaged in primary activities, only one-half of the working population was engaged in such activities in the district. Thus the share of the primary sector in the working force of the district was much less than that of the state. On the other hand one-half of the district's working population was engaged in secondary and tertiary activities as against only one-third in the state. On the basis of sectoral behaviour of the working force it can, therefore, be concluded that the economy of the Ambala district is more progressive than that of the state as a whole. Unlike many other districts of the state, agriculture is not the only mainstay in the district.

Workers by Age-groups

According to the 1971 Census, the district had only 4.25 per cent of workers in the age-group of 0—14, 36.61 per cent in the age-group of 15—24, 49.48 per cent in the age-group of 30—59 and 9.57 per cent in the age-group of 60 years and above. Low percentage of workers in the age-group of 0—14 indicates that the problem of child labour in the district was not serious. Nearly one-half of the workers were in the age-group of 30—59.

Educational level of workers

As regards the educational level of workers in urban areas, literate and illiterate existed side by side in all industrial categories except mining

and quarrying as no worker was reported to be engaged in such activities in the urban areas.¹ Literate women workers were conspicuously absent in the field of agricultural labourers and construction. Male workers with primary/middle, matriculation or higher secondary qualifications were found in all categories. Male workers, having a technical diploma not equal to a degree, were found in manufacturing; construction, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication and other services; while those having a non-technical diploma not equal to a degree, were available only in manufacturing (other than household industry), trade and commerce and other services. Male workers possessing a university or post-graduate degree other than in technical subjects were found in all categories except in that of agricultural labourers. Similarly, male workers with technical degree or diploma equal to a university or post-graduate degree were found in all industrial categories except agricultural labourers.

In rural areas, literate male workers with some level of literacy were found in all the categories, while female literate workers were found as cultivators, agricultural labourers, in manufacturing and other services.² Of the educated, large number of them in all categories were educated only up to primary level. Only a few possessed a university degree or any type of technical diploma or certificate.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Out of the total population of 10,98,405 in the district, only 27.4 per cent formed the working force, of which 13.8 per cent of the total population were engaged in agricultural and allied pursuits and the remaining 13.6 per cent in other pursuits. In the absence of other data regarding unemployment, the idea of employment situation can only be gathered from the working of employment exchanges in the district.

Employment Exchanges.—With a view to making an assessment of manpower requirement of professional, scientific, skilled, and technical workers, and to determine more correctly the type of personnel in short supply, as also to find out new employment opportunities, the State Directorate of Employment maintains district-wise records of persons seeking employment. The employment exchanges in the districts register the names and qualifications of the unemployed persons seeking work.

At first a Regional Employment Exchange was established at Ambala in 1945 to provide re-employment to ex-servicemen. Later in 1962, it was converted into the District Employment Exchange. This exchange was

1. *Census of India Series 6, 1971, Haryana, Part II-B, Economic Tables*, pp. 60-63.

2. *Ibid*, pp. 72-73.

further upgraded to Divisional Employment Exchange in 1972. Since then, it has been exercising control over the employment exchanges in Ambala, Karnal and Kurukshetra districts. Another District Employment Exchange was opened at Yamunanagar in 1956. Besides, a Town Employment Exchange at Kalka (opened in 1971) and two rural employment exchanges at Sadhaura (1969) and Morni Hills (1971) function in the district.¹ Thus in 1977-78 the total number of employment exchanges in the district was five.

With the enforcement of the Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, in June, 1960 establishments in the public sector and also those employing 25 or more persons in the private sector, have to notify their vacancies to the employment exchange before these are filled.

The following table shows the working of employment exchanges in Ambala district during 1969 to 1977 :—

Year	No. of Employ- ment Exchan- ges at the End of the Year	No. of Regis- tration During the Year	No. of Vacan- cies Notified	No. of Appli- cants Placed in Em- ploy- ment During the Year	Appli- cants on the Live Register	Monthly Number of Em- ployers Using the Ex- change	No. of Vacan- cies Carried Over at the End of the Year	
December								
1969	..	3	24,215	5,171	2,877	11,708	1,302	1,021
1970	..	3	27,802	5,862	3,645	15,299	1,455	1,315
1971	..	5	32,740	6,833	4,266	20,296	1,569	1,452
1972	..	5	37,783	8,099	5,711	27,566	1,641	914
1973	..	5	35,067	6,476	4,053	26,091	1,362	985
1974	..	5	29,546	4,447	2,863	40,390	946	838
1975	..	5	28,940	4,181	3,419	41,843	938	984
1976	..	5	36,847	5,634	4,468	51,575	1,374	1,070
1977	..	5	39,026	6,683	5,417	50,021	1,982	1,000

1. Rural Employment Exchange, Morni Hills was shifted to Raipur Rani in September, 1979 and a new Rural Employment Exchange was opened at Narayangarh in March 1979.

The problem of unemployment in the district is complex. There is non-availability of experienced and skilled force but on the other hand, there is a glut of new applicants having no work experience. The number of persons seeking employment on the live register which was 11,708 in December, 1969 increased to 50,021 in December, 1977, which included 14,744 matriculates, 4,501 under-graduates, 5,201 graduates, 527 post-graduates and 25,048 non-matriculates, illiterates, skilled and unskilled.

The functioning of employment exchanges in the district has improved the quality of service in the collection of employment market information and vocational guidance facilities. As a part of the programme of collection of employment market information quarterly, employees returns are obtained from all establishments in the public sector and from employers employing 10 or more persons in the private sector. These returns contain information *inter-alia* regarding vacancies which remain unfilled at the end of a quarter due to non-availability of suitable applicants. At the same time it provides information about the strength of establishments and concerns. In March, 1978, there were 577 public and 634 private establishments in the record of the employment exchanges.

There are two vocational guidance units, one at Ambala and the other at Yamunanagar, where career pamphlets, books and other useful informations are provided for the benefit of students and applicants. Information regarding job opportunities, self employment avenues, training facilities in the state and abroad, apprenticeship and know-how of different jobs is also given. Group talks are arranged for students and applicants by the Employment Officers. Career talks are given by the Vocational Guidance Officer to students in the educational institutions to guide them about their career, possibilities. Individual and group counselling work is also carried out in the employment Exchanges.¹

PRICES AND WAGES

Prices

Some idea about the price trends prevailing in the Ambala district in the second-half of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century can be had from table XXX of Appendix. It gives retail prices of various commodities from 1861-62 to 1912. The prices for various commodities rose considerably over the period. A rupee during 1861-62 to 1865-66 could fetch a person, 23 seers and 4 *chhittanks* of wheat or 31 seers and 14 *chhittanks* of gram

1. The occupational research and analysis and also the publication of career books and pamphlets are done by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Government of India, New Delhi and the Directorate of Employment, Haryana, Chandigarh.

or 23 seers and 14 *chhittanks* of *bajra* or 146 seers and 9 *chhittanks* of firewood but in 1912 a rupee could get only 13 seers and 8 *chhittanks* of wheat or 19 seers and 4 *chhittanks* of gram or 14 seers and 12 *chhittanks* of *bajra* or 93 seers of firewood.

The outbreak of the World War I in 1914, caused a sudden rise in prices owing to small imports and the bad harvests of 1915-16 resulting from poor monsoons. The upward trend of prices continued up to 1929 when the general depression of the thirties brought a big slump in the market accompanied by unemployment. The resulting downward trend of agricultural production created misery for the farmers.

The World War II (1939—45) created widespread scarcity conditions in respect of many articles of daily need. There was a slight recession in prices in 1944 and 1945, but after 1945 the general scarcity of foodgrains and inflationary factors were responsible for the price level to rise enormously.

After the Partition of the country, the economic activities suffered to a very great extent due to dislocation of the working population. There was a further rise in the price level. Price control was imposed by the Government of India in many sectors to stabilize the general price level all over the country. The measures taken effected a reasonable decline in prices.

During the first Five-Year Plan (1951—56) agricultural production increased considerably and prices of food products fell in 1953-54. The price control on foodgrains was lifted, but the upward trend in prices started again. The general scarcity of foodgrains due to harvest failure and taking up of developmental activities with long gestation periods, gave birth to various inflationary factors to raise the price level during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956—61). In the Third Plan (1961—66) the prices of various agricultural products increased enormously. During the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969—74) the wholesale prices registered an unprecedented upward trend.

The following table shows the average annual wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities in the district :—

(Rs per quintal)

Commodities	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wheat ..	87.10	81.35	82.40	80.34	76.25	118.63	108.70	115.80	115.00	128.20
Jowar ..	42.59	60.70	66.26	..	..	110.00	147.55	157.40	130.00	120.50
Bajra ..	68.80	78.42	53.48	56.88	90.00	98.85	166.88	85.00	96.50	115.60
Barley ..	46.18	52.38	44.88	62.48	96.86	106.25	92.75	78.80	65.86	90.00
Maize ..	61.33	64.68	54.18	58.30	74.82	94.60	139.73	85.00	95.80	110.86
Gram ..	77.92	101.48	79.22	100.99	146.26	189.15	189.91	165.38	146.60	175.00
Groundnut ..	100.85	113.08	134.34	127.10	152.25	184.83	243.87	162.00	270.00	245.00
Gur ..	179.20	89.61	68.69	117.56	154.60	150.83	140.05	110.30	130.48	140.00
Potato ..	43.85	37.63	59.42	57.41	46.54	58.22	30.00	60.60	80.00	75.00
Cotton (Desi) ..	101.00	..	..	147.58	154.17	..	275.58	200.00	260.00	335.00

ECONOMIC TRENDS

There is a time lag between the movement of wholesale and retail prices. The reaction of the wholesale prices is quicker than that of retail prices because the market information regarding the movement of retail prices flows down to the retailer comparatively at a slow pace. The following table shows the retail prices of important commodities in the first week of July from 1969 to 1977 which prevailed at Ambala City:—

Commodity	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Wheat	100.00	105.00	110.00	115.00	120.00	125.00	130.00	135.00	140.00
Rice	150.00	155.00	160.00	165.00	170.00	175.00	180.00	185.00	190.00
Oil	200.00	210.00	220.00	230.00	240.00	250.00	260.00	270.00	280.00
Sugar	180.00	185.00	190.00	195.00	200.00	205.00	210.00	215.00	220.00
Tea	300.00	310.00	320.00	330.00	340.00	350.00	360.00	370.00	380.00
Coffee	400.00	410.00	420.00	430.00	440.00	450.00	460.00	470.00	480.00
Spices	250.00	260.00	270.00	280.00	290.00	300.00	310.00	320.00	330.00
Other	120.00	125.00	130.00	135.00	140.00	145.00	150.00	155.00	160.00

(In Rs.)

Commodity	Unit	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
1. Rice (Medium)	kg.	1.50	0.60	1.70	1.70	1.80	1.95	2.25	1.80	1.80	1.80
2. Wheat (Kalyan)	kg.	0.90	0.85	0.82	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.25	1.20	1.20	1.25
3. Maize	.. Kg.	0.95	..	0.55	1.00	1.20	1.25	1.60	1.00	1.40	1.25
4. Atta	.. kg.	0.95	0.90	0.90	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.30	1.35
5. Maida	.. kg.	1.10	1.10	1.25	1.15	1.20	1.40	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.80
6. Moong Dal	.. kg.	1.75	2.00	1.80	2.50	2.70	2.85	3.60	2.70	3.80	4.75
7. Urd Dal	.. kg.	1.60	2.00	2.25	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.60	3.70	4.00	4.75
8. Sugar	.. kg.	2.50	1.80	1.90	3.25	3.50	3.75	4.25	5.00	4.30	3.70
9. Gur	.. kg.	1.25	0.75	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.30	2.00	1.00
10. Mustard Oil	kg.	5.25	5.20	4.50	5.75	5.80	5.90	6.00	6.50	10.75	9.50
11. Vanaspati	.. 4 kgs.	24.01	..	25.00	24.28	26.28	27.40	24.60	36.65	43.85	44.10
12. Kerosene Oil	.. Litre	0.60	0.64	0.64	0.70	0.80	0.95	1.16	1.35	1.36	1.40

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Economic and Statistical Organisation, Haryana, has been compiling monthly consumers' price index numbers for working classes in respect of important industrial towns in the state since 1956-57. Ambala Cantonment and Surajpur from Ambala district are included in these towns. The relevant data regarding consumer's price index numbers are available in three series. The first set is of the old series from 1956-57 to 1966-67 with the base year 1950-51, the second set is of the series started from 1967 to 1975 with the base year 1966 and the new series of index numbers started in July, 1975 with base year 1972-73. The index number of the first series for Ambala cantonment and Surajpur are as under :—

(Base year 1950-51=100)

Year	Ambala Cantonment		Surajpur	
	Food	General	Food	General
1956-57	98	100	115	112
1957-58	99	103	117	114
1958-59	110	110	127	118
1959-60	113	112	131	123
1960-61	108	114	135	128
1961-62	113	123	136	130
1962-63	112	124	136	128
1963-64	122	130	151	139
1964-65	150	149	179	158
1965-66	156	161	183	170
1966-67	200	194	227	212

These index numbers are based upon the weekly retail prices that prevailed in Ambala Cantonment and Surajpur in respect of 101 commodities/services, which were mostly consumed by the working class. The above table indicates that the price level during 1956-57 and 1957-58 was more or less the same in both the centres. From 1958-59 the prices rose almost continuously till 1966-67, when in a single year the prices rose by 20.5 per cent in Ambala Cantonment and 24.7 per cent in Surajpur beating the previous ten-year record. During the period, 1950-51 to 1966-67, the price level had increased by 94

per cent in Ambala Cantonment and 112 per cent in Surajpur. During the same period, the prices had risen by 114 per cent in Rewari, 99 per cent in Bhiwani and 81 per cent in Panipat. The position in the country as a whole, was almost similar. The all-India working class consumers' price index number was 191 in 1966-67 with 1949 as the base year.

The old series was discontinued and a new series of consumers' price index of working class was introduced from June, 1967 with 1966 as the base year and Surajpur—Pinjore was taken as a new centre.

The following table depicts the movements of consumers' price index of working class from 1967 to 1974: —

(Base year 1966=100)

Year	Food	General
1967 ¹	132	120
1968	130	120
1969	129	122
1970	131	135
1971	133	141
1972	144	149
1973	158	162
1974	203	207
1975	216	224

The above figures reveal that price increase in 1967 was very sharp as the prices rose by 20 per cent in a single year. Prices remained constant in 1968 but increased only marginally in 1969. In 1970 prices rose by 10.6 per cent, in 1971 by 4.4 per cent, in 1972 by 5.6 per cent and in 1973 by 8.7 per cent in each case over the previous years' prices. Prices rose tremendously in 1974 by 27.7 per cent. From 1966 to 1974, the price level increased by 107 per cent. During the same period, the prices had risen by 106 per cent in Faridabad, 101 per cent in Sonipat and 100 per cent in Bhiwani.

The 1966 series was replaced in July 1975 by the latest new series of consumer's price index of working class with 1972-73 as base year. This series

1. Average from June to December, 1967.

reflects the consumption pattern of industrial workers in Surajpur-Pinjore centre since 1972-73. The following table gives the consumers' price index from July, 1975 onwards:—

(Base Year 1972-73 = 100)

Year	General
1975 ¹	143
1976	141
1977	151
1978	156

The index in 1975 touched 143 level, thereby recording an increase of 43 per cent over the new base year 1972-73. There was slight decline in 1976 but the price level again increased in 1977 and 1978.

The Labour Bureau, Government of India compiles another series of consumers' price index of working class with the base year 1960. It has selected Yamunanagar in the district as its lone centre in Haryana. The index number of series from 1961 to 1978 have been as under:

(Base Year 1960 = 100)

Year	General
1961	102
1962	104
1963	108
1964	123
1965	134
1966	153
1967	186
1968	185
1969	190
1970	193
1971	199
1972	212
1973	243
1974	314
1975	326
1976	313
1977	344
1978	358

1. Average from July to December, 1975.

The above table indicates that the prices rose at modest rates up to 1963, but the rise was sharp in 1964. Thereafter, the prices continued to rise. The price rise was also very sharp in 1967, when the prices rose by 21.5 per cent. There was marginal fall in the prices in 1968 and 1976. The price rise was tremendous in 1974, when in a single year the prices rose by 25.1 per cent. During 1961—78 as a whole the price level had increased by 258 per cent in Yamunaganar.

Wages

The wages for skilled and unskilled workers in the district have increased manifold since 1870-71. The following figures show the daily wages for skilled and unskilled workers from 1870-71 to 1910-11 in the then Ambala district¹:—

Year	Skilled		Unskilled	
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1870	0 7 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 3 0
1880-81	0 7 0	0 5 0	0 3 0	0 2 0
1890-91	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 3 0	0 2 0
1900-01	0 8 0	0 5 8	0 3 6	0 2 6
1910-11	0 14 0	0 12 0	0 7 0	0 5 0

(Twelve Pies made an *anna* and 16 *annas* made a rupee)

The wages of a skilled worker ranging between 7 *annas* and of 5 *annas* a day in 1870-71 ranged between 14 *annas* and 12 *annas* in 1910-11. During the same period the wages of unskilled worker rose from maximum of 4 *annas* and minimum of 3 *annas* a day to maximum of 7 *annas* and minimum of 5 *annas* a day. The rise was higher for skilled than unskilled worker. Wages for skilled workers, fell in 1890-91 but again increased in 1900-01. Wages for unskilled workers fell in 1880-81 and remained almost constant during the next two decades.

Due to a general rise in prices after the outbreak of World War I in 1914, wages also started increasing; however, the wages in kind remained constant. Towards the close of the first quarter of the 20th century, money wages increased immensely. During the harvest season, labourers had to be paid twelve *annas*

1. *Ambala District and Kalsia State, Statistical Tables, Ambala District Portion, 1912, Table 25.*

a day and sometime even a rupee. Their ordinary wages, however, did not exceed 7 *annas* per day in towns. Skilled labour was much dearer. Carpenters, blacksmiths, masons got one rupee eight *annas* per day in towns and one rupee in villages.¹

The general depression of the thirties brought down the wages and the economic condition of wage earners and agricultural classes was far from satisfactory. In 1937, the daily wage of unskilled worker was 5 *annas* only. The daily wages of carpenters, blacksmiths and masons varied from 8 to 17 *annas*. The monthly wages of ploughmen varied between Rs. 6 to 10.

The outbreak of the World War II in 1939 caused an enormous rise in the wages of all categories of workers. The wages of unskilled labourers in the district rose from 5 *annas* a day in 1937 to one rupee a day in 1943, registering more than three fold increase in the wages within a period of 6 years. A similar increase was observed in 1943, in the wages of carpenters, blacksmiths and masons which varied between one rupee eight *annas* to two rupees and six *annas* a day. The monthly wages of ploughmen varied between Rs. 17 to Rs. 25.

In 1951, a further increase was registered in the wages of all categories of workers. The daily wages of unskilled workers rose to rupees two. The wages of carpenters, blacksmiths and masons varied between two rupees and one *anna* to five rupees and three *annas*. The monthly wages of ploughmen varied between Rs. 29 to Rs. 66.

During the fifties, the wages remained more or less constant ; it was only towards 1959-60 when the wages began to rise. The rise became steep after 1969-70.

Presently the workers in the district can be divided into three categories, viz., (i) wholetime workers , (ii) part-time workers and (iii) workers on daily wages. In 1977-78, the wage rates of selected occupations in the district were as under :—

Particulars of Labour	(In Rs.)	
	Wages per Mensum	Daily Wages
Casual Labour—		
(i) Skilled	.. 220	10.00
(ii) Unskilled	.. 195	8.50

1. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1923-24, p. 97.

Particulars of Labour	Wages per Mensem Whole- time	Daily Wages
Porter	175	8.50
Chowkidar	225	8.00
Gardner	225	8.00
Herdsmen	..	9.50
Carpenter—		
(i) Grade I	875	18.00
(ii) Grade II	275	15.00
Cobbler	265	10.00
Blacksmith—		
(i) Grade I	..	14.00
(ii) Grade II	..	11.00
Motor Driver—		
(i) H.T.V.	275	13.00
(ii) L.T.V.	240	10.50
Tailor	240	11.50
Washerman	220	9.50
Barber	210	8.50
Scavenger	250	9.50

The wages of immobile agricultural labourers are generally determined by the customary practice prevalent in the area and are easily regulated by the law of supply and demand. At the peak of the season, labour being more in demand, the wages are high, while during the slack season, labour can be hired at lower wages. The wages for various occupations in the rural as well as in the urban area are paid either in cash, kind or both. In addition to cash payments; breakfast and daily meals are also provided to casual labourers during the weeding, reaping, ploughing and other agricultural operations. The normal working hours are from sun rise to sun set with a break of one or two hours. For grazing cattle, a herdsman gets two to four rupees per head per month. The rate is different for buffaloes, which are charged higher than cows. Skilled labour like carpenters, blacksmiths and masons are employed on daily wages. The main choice of mode of payment and the periodicity of payment of wages is in the hands of the employer as he holds the best bargaining power. The labourers who are in short supply can dictate their choice to some extent only in the peak season. Even in peak season they are generally dependent on the employer as they want to get work in off seasons also. The wages for different agricultural operations in the Ambala district from 1969 to 1978 have been as follows¹ :—

1. The wages paid for different agricultural operations in the selected villages are taken to represent the whole district. The data given here relate to Shahpur village in tahsil Ambala.

(In Rs.)

Year	Ploughing	Sowing	Weeding	Harvesting	Picking of cotton	Other Agricultural Operations	Blacksmith	Carpenter
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1969	4.00	4.47	4.36	4.50	..	4.84	8.66	8.66
1970	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	..	5.00	10.42	10.42
1971	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.25	..	5.00	12.00	12.00
1972	5.33	5.83	5.83	5.82	..	5.75	12.00	12.00
1973	7.60	6.00	6.33	6.00	4.50	6.00	12.33	12.33
1974	9.00	6.00	6.00	5.92	3.60	6.00	13.17	13.17
1975	10.67	9.42	9.42	9.42	4.75	9.42	14.00	14.00
1976	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.73	..	9.50	14.42	15.58
1977	7.15	7.15	7.09	7.19	..	7.14	17.50	18.50
1978	7.25	7.25	7.25	..	..	7.25	17.00	18.00

(i) The wages are the average of 12 months.

(ii) The wage rates are for a normal working day of eight hours.

(iii) The wages include payment in cash and cash equivalent of commodities paid in kind.

The above figures reveal that the wages for different agricultural operations rose continuously with minor variations right up to 1976. The wages were more than double in 1976 as compared to 1969 in respect of ploughing, sowing, weeding, harvesting and other harvesting operations. Significantly enough, there was a marked fall in such wages in 1977. The wages for blacksmiths and carpenters rose continuously up to 1977.

Both prices and wages on the whole have been rising in the recent years and this phenomenon is in consonance with the general rising trend of wages and prices in the whole country. The price rise has outrun the rise in wages and the relative position of prices and wages has not remained constant. The slower rate of increase in wages than in prices has resulted in the decline of the real income of the workers adversely affecting their standard of living.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Programme was launched in the district on October 2, 1952. The role of Community Development Programme towards rebuilding the rural economy is of crucial significance. Rapid increase in food production is its prime object and its other allied activities are in the fields of animal husbandry, irrigation, co-operation, village industry, health and rural housing. The ultimate objective of the programme is the material development of the rural community by promoting self-reliance, solidarity and co-operative action.

Prior to the formation of Haryana in 1966, there were thirteen blocks in the then Ambala district. On the formation of Haryana in 1966, four blocks viz., Ropar, Kharar, Chamkaur Sahib and Sialba Majri remained in Punjab while Nalagarh block was transferred to Himachal Pradesh. The present Ambala district has eight blocks, viz., Chhachhrauli, Narayangarh, Jagadhri, Barara, Raipur Rani, Bilaspur, Ambala and Pinjore.¹ On March, 31, 1978, the stages of the blocks of the district, number of villages and rural population covered were as under :—

Name of the block	Date of Inception	Stage	Villages	Population (Rural) According to 1971 Census
1	2	3	4	5
1. Chhachhrauli ..	1956	III	172	91,187
2. Jagadhri ..	1952	III	166	1,37,049

1. Before Reorganisation, this block was known as Manimajra block, but it was re-named Pinjore block because of the transfer of Manimajra town to U. T., Chandigarh. Now its headquarters are at Pinjore.

	1	2	3	4	5
3. Barara	..	1953	III	139	1,18,005
4. Raipur Rani	..	1960	III	158	94,164
5. Narayangarh	..	1956	III	191	91,301
6. Pinjore	..	1969	III	135	57,076
7. Bilaspur	..	1964	III	139	65,894
8. Ambala	..	1964	III	176	1,19,000

The Community Development Programme in the district has embraced multifarious fields like distribution of chemical fertilizers among the farmers, reclamation of land, pavement of lanes, inoculation/vaccination of animals and opening of adult education centres. Achievements in these programmes make a great impact on the community life in villages. It has helped to bring significant changes in their life pattern and thinking. Villagers have shed their earlier opposition to modern techniques of agriculture. They now unreservedly take advantage of the facilities provided by the development institutions, and are generally more actively participating in the co-operative movement, small savings, health and sanitation, cattle development and similar other activities.