

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

GENERAL

The social services like labour welfare, advancement of backward classes, welfare of the old, infirm and destitute and prohibition are described in this chapter.

LABOUR WELFARE

Prior to Independence, there was no regular government organisation to watch and ensure the welfare of industrial workers and to settle industrial disputes and other connected labour problems. A separate Labour Department in the composite Punjab was established in 1949. After the formation of the Haryana in 1966, a Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Karnal, with jurisdiction extending over Karnal, Ambala and Jind districts. Since March, 1968, an independent Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer has been posted at Yamunanagar and the Ambala district has been placed under his jurisdiction. He works under the overall charge of the Labour Commissioner, Haryana at Chandigarh.

The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Yamunanagar, looks after the proper and effective implementation of various labour laws in the district and is assisted by three Labour Inspectors, stationed at Yamunanagar, Ambala Cantonment and Jagadhri. As Conciliation Officer, he initiates proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes, as provided by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and tries to settle them by mediation and by joint discussion with the parties. If he fails to do so, he submits his report to the government and matter is referred to the Labour Court or the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication.¹

Labour Legislation

Labour legislation is necessary to tackle economic and social problems, as civil laws in general do not particularly deal with labour problems. The labour laws are motivated by humanitarian approach as propounded by the International Labour Organisation and are based on the principles of

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

social justice. Labour, under the Constitution of India, is a concurrent subject and as such both the central and state legislatures are empowered to make laws. The important labour laws in force and their main provisions are detailed in Table XLI of Appendix. However, the Factories Act, 1948, is the most important labour legislation. It is administered by the Inspector of Factories, Yamunanagar, under the guidance of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Labour Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh through a Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories.

To look after the health of the workers, the state government has appointed a whole time Certifying Surgeon for the whole state, with headquarters at Faridabad, who has been provided with a mobile van having an X-ray plant and laboratory. His duties are to visit the factories involving hazardous operations, check on the health of workers and take remedial measures to forestall any deterioration.

To look after the general welfare of its employees, labour welfare officers have been employed by Ballarpur Industries Ltd., Yamunanagar ; Saraswati Sugar Mills, Yamunanagar ; Indian Sugar and General Engineering Corporation, Yamunanagar ; Bhupindra Cement Works, Surajpur ; HMT, Pinjore ; Northern Railway Workshop, Kalka and Northern Railway Workshop, Jagadhri.

Industrial Relations

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

The functions of the Conciliation Officer are persuasive and he has no direct power to make or vary awards. During the period from April 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978, 343 disputes were handled by the Conciliation Officer. Of these, 81 were settled through his intervention, 40 were referred to adjudication/arbitration, 52 were withdrawn and 62 were rejected/filed by the government.

Works Committees

To promote harmonious relations between employers and workmen, to consider matters of mutual interest and to solve day to day problems, there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for setting up of works committees in the industrial establishments employing 100 or more workers. Such committees, consisting of an equal number of representatives of the management and workmen exist in the following industrial establishments :—(i) Imperial Flour Mills, Ambala City, (ii) Central Jail, Ambala City, (iii) Instruments and Chemicals (P) Ltd., Ambala City, (iv) Milk Plant, Ambala City, (v) Haryana Roadways, Ambala City, (vi) Chanderpur Works, Yamunanagar, (vii) Ballarpur Industries Ltd., Yamunanagar, (viii) Haryana Distillery, Yamunanagar, (ix) Bharat Starch and Chemicals Ltd., Yamunanagar, (x) Punjab Business & Supply Company, Yamunanagar, (xi) Saraswati Sugar Mills, Yamunanagar, (xii) Indian Sugar and General Engineering Corporation, Yamunanagar, (xiii) Yamuna Auto Industries, Yamunanagar, (xiv) K. Iron Works, Yamunanagar, (xv) HMT, Pinjore, (xvi) Bhupindra Cement Works, Surajpur, (xvii) Oriental Science Apparatus Workshop, Ambala Cantonment, (xviii) Amar Trading Company, Ambala Cantonment and (xix) M.E.S., Ambala Cantonment.

Strikes

Despite the efforts to resolve difficulties and to promote good relations and harmony between the employers and workmen, strikes do occur. During the period from April 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978, 8 strikes occurred in various establishments in which 1,274 workers were involved and 12,405 man-days were lost.

Trade Unions

The trade union movement in the district has gained momentum which is reflected in the number of registered trade unions under the Trade Unions Act, 1926. On March 31, 1978, the number of registered trade unions was 90 and their names are given in Table XLII of Appendix.

Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme

The Government of India initiated the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme in September, 1952. Under this scheme, 294 houses with modern amenities have been constructed at Yamunanagar, Jagadhri and Ambala. These houses have been rented out to the industrial workers on a nominal rent ranging from Rs. 14 to 16 per month.

Labour Welfare Centres

There are three labour welfare centres ; one each at Ambala City, Yamunanagar and Jagadhri. These centres are run by the government.

Training in sewing, knitting and music is imparted. The centres provide facilities of indoor games and library.

Employees' Provident Funds Scheme

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

The provident fund contribution was deducted at the rate of 6½ per cent from the monthly wages of the employees subscribing to the fund and an equal amount was contributed by the employers. The rate of contribution was enhanced from 6½ per cent to 8 per cent on January 1, 1963, in respect of industries/classes of establishments employing 50 or more persons. In Ambala district, 219 factories/establishments were covered under this scheme by March 31, 1978 and 7,763 workers out of a total of 8,018 workers subscribed to the scheme.

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

The subscribers can withdraw money from their provident fund for certain approved purposes. In the event of calamities of an exceptional nature, such as floods and earthquakes, the subscribers are entitled to draw an advance. In the case of factories, establishments having been continuously closed down or locked up for more than six months, the advance can be taken subject to certain conditions.

To afford financial assistance to the nominees/heirs of the deceased subscriber, a Death Relief Fund was set up in 1964 and a minimum of Rs. 1,000 is assured by way of relief. A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of individual retrenchment in order to mitigate the immediate hardship.

A subscriber is allowed to withdraw the full amount standing to his credit in the fund on completing 15 years of membership ; or on attaining the age of 55 years ; or after retirement from service ; or on retirement on

account of permanent and total incapacity for work ; or on migration from India for permanent settlement abroad or on termination of service in the case of mass as well as individual retrenchment.

In Ambala district, 696 provident funds claims were settled and about Rs. 12 lakh was paid to the claimants during 1977-78.

Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976

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

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

In Ambala district, no relief was claimed under this scheme up to March 31, 1978.

Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Scheme, 1971

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

Although no additional liability on the members is levied under the scheme, 1½ per cent of his wages is transferred to Family Pension Fund out of the amount of the subscriber as well as employer's contributions payable under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme.

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

withdrawal benefits at certain rates. For those who join this scheme after 25 years of age, certain percentage of reduction in benefits has been prescribed.

The benefits are admissible only if the member has contributed for 2 years ; otherwise his own share of contribution to family pension fund along with interest at the rate of 5½ per cent is refundable to him.

In the Ambala district, 113 family pension fund claims were settled and Rs. 26,338 were paid to the claimants during 1977-78.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme

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

The scheme functions under the administrative control of the Director-General, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi. In Haryana, this scheme is executed through the Regional Director, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Chandigarh, who inspects factories, collects contributions and arranges payments of cash benefits.

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

In 1953, the scheme was introduced at Ambala City, Ambala Cantonment, Yamunanagar and Jagadhri and it was extended to Pinjore in 1965.

On March 31, 1978, the scheme covered 34,966 employees working in 702 factories/establishments as shown below :

Serial No.	Place Name	Factories/ Establishments Covered	Employees Insured
1.	Ambala City and Ambala Cantonment	296	6,291
2.	Yamunanagar and Jagadhri	405	22,782
3.	Pinjore	1	5,893
	Total	702	34,966

Free medical treatment to the insured persons and members of their families is administered through the E.S.I. dispensaries located at Ambala City, Ambala Cantonment and Jagadhri. Besides, a 60-bedded E.S.I. Hospital has also been functioning at Jagadhri since May, 1968 for the service of industrial workers. The E.S.I. patients of this district suffering from chest diseases are treated in the E.S.I. Hospital, Panipat where 15 beds have specifically been reserved for such patients.

Periodical payments are given to an insured employee in case of sickness and employment injury. An amount of Rs. 100 for funeral ceremony and periodical payment in the shape of pension is paid to the dependents of an employee if he/she dies of an employment injury.

An employee is entitled to receive special sickness benefit equal to twice the standard benefit rate if he/she undergoes sterilisation under the family welfare programme. This benefit was extended with effect from August 1, 1976.

Periodical payments are given to women employees in case of confinement, miscarriage or sickness arising out of premature birth of child or miscarriage.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Old age pensions

The protective umbrella of social security in the form of old age pension was provided to the old, destitute and disabled persons in 1964 for the first time. The pension amount was fixed at Rs. 15 per month. The old, destitute or disabled persons who were in the age group of 65 years or above in the case of men and 60 years or above in the case of women and who were without subsistence or

1. For details see chapter on 'Medical and Public Health Services'.

support were made eligible for the pension. The scheme was scrapped in 1967 but was revived in April, 1969 and the pension amount was enhanced to Rs. 25 per month. The quantum of pension was enhanced to Rs. 80 per mensem in April, 1977. The number of beneficiaries in the Ambala district has risen from 745 in 1969-70 to 1,536 in 1977-78 as shown below:

Year	Beneficiaries
1969-70	745
1970-71	920
1971-72	1,146
1972-73	1,259
1973-74	1,261
1974-75	1,410
1975-76	1,499
1976-77	1,412
1977-78	1,536

Advancement of Backward Classes

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

Scheduled Castes	.. Ad Dharmi; Bazigar; Balmiki; Chura; Bhangi; Chamar; Jatia Chamar; Reghar; Raigar; Ramdasi; Ravidasi; Dumna; Mahasha; Doom; Kabir-panthi; Julaha; Khatik; Kori; Koli; Mazbhi; Megh; Pasi; Sansi; Bhedkut; Mahesh; Sapela; Sikligar; Sirki-band
Vimukt Jatis:	.. Sausi
Other Backward Classes	Baragi, Bairagi; Bharbhunja; Bhatra, Bhat, Darpi, Ramiya; Chhipi, Chimba, Darzi; Dhobi; Dakaut; Faqir; Gorkhas; Gadaria; Hajjam, Nai; Jogi Nath; Kumhar; Khati; Kuchband; Kamboj; Labana; Manihar, Lakhera; Lohar; Mirasi; Mochi; Nar; Noongar; Pinja, Penja; Rai Sikh, Thathera; Tampera; Jullaha

1. Scheduled Castes have been defined in Article 341 of the Constitution of India. Vimukt Jatis connote such a tribe, gang or class of persons or any part of a tribe, gang or class of persons which were deemed to be Criminal Tribes under the Criminal Tribes Act VI of 1924. Other Backward Classes include Backward Classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, recognised as such by the state government on the basis of educational and economic backwardness coupled with some social stigma akin to untouchability.

These castes are found in all parts of the district and there is no specific area of concentration of a particular caste.

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

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

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

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

Five community centres one each at Bilaspur (Jagadhari tahsil), Dheem (Ambala tahsil), Sadhaura (Narayangarh tahsil), Rangia (Ambala tahsil) and Barwala (Kalka tahsil) have been functioning in the district since 1956-57, 1958-59, 1961-62, 1967-68 and 1968-69, respectively. The community centre at Rangia was shifted to Ambala City in May, 1977. The staff in each centre consists of one male and one lady social worker and one lady attendant, preferably a trained *dai*.

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

help in promoting social integration of the Scheduled Castes and other communities. Under the scheme, a subsidy up to Rs. 5,000 for the construction of new *chaupal* and up to Rs. 2,000 for the repair of old one is given. Since the inception of the scheme, an amount of Rs. 7,12,500 has been spent for the construction/repair of 260 Harijan *chaupals* in the district.

Promotion of Education.—The persons belonging to backward classes are, by and large, illiterate. The special measures taken by the government to spread education among them have been described in chapter on 'Education and Culture.'

Subsidy for Construction of New Houses.—In order to provide shelter to the homeless members of the Scheduled Castes, subsidies are granted for the construction of a house. A subsidy of Rs. 2,000 for the construction of a house is given to a person who has no house of his own. The proprietary rights of the house remain vested in the government for 20 years after which the house becomes the property of the beneficiary. The latter, of course, has free use of the house during this period. During the period from 1967-68 to 1977-78, a sum of Rs. 6,65,900 was disbursed to 466 beneficiaries.

Out of 466 beneficiaries, 463 have constructed their houses.

Subsidy for House Sites.—Overcrowding of houses in Harijan *bastis* in the rural areas poses a serious problem. Although the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961, has conferred upon Harijans the proprietary rights over the sites under their houses, yet to relieve congestion in Harijan *bastis*, the government granted a subsidy of Rs. 200 to each deserving and needy person of the Scheduled Castes for the purchase of a residential site with effect from 1958-59. The scheme was withdrawn in 1967-68. Again in 1968-69, incentive for purchase of house site was provided by way of advancing loan of Rs. 1,000 at 3 per cent interest. During 1958-59 to 1966-67, 111 beneficiaries were given Rs. 22,200 as subsidy and thereafter 61 Harijans received Rs. 61,000 as loan.

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

A sum of Rs. 2,53,900 was disbursed during the period 1967-68 to 1977-78 for the projects as shown below :

Name of the Scheme	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs.)
1. Sinking of new wells ..	81	68,450
2. Repair of old wells ..	186	81,350
3. Installation of hand-pumps ..	75	1,04,100
Total ..	342	2,53,900

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

The number of beneficiaries from 1966-67 to 1977-78 were 88 trainees of Scheduled Castes and 182 of Backward Classes.

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

The scheme was introduced in 1958-59. A sum of Rs. 2,35,000 was advanced from 1967-68 to 1977-78 to 273 persons of this district.

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

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

bought, a subsidy of Rs. 500 was paid to the loanee for the purchase of agricultural implements. A person so settled was given a subsidy of Rs. 1,000 for the construction of a house or a well. This subsidy was also given to others who had their own land but had no well or house on it.

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

The year-wise figures for subsidy/loan for purchase of land and construction of houses and wells are as under:

Year	Purchase of land		Houses/Wells	
	(Loan Scheme)		(Subsidy)	
	Amount (Rs)	Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs)	Beneficiaries
1969-70 ..	36,000	8	10,500	21
1970-71 ..	54,000	12	13,000	26
1971-72 ..	—	—	—	—
1972-73 ..	42,000	7	4,500	9
1973-74 ..	—	—	2,500	5
1974-75 ..	—	—	9,000	9
1975-76 ..	—	—	—	—
1976-77 ..	—	—	—	—
1977-78 ..	—	—	—	—

Legal Assistance.—To protect the members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, against the tyranny of landlords or other exploiting classes, legal assistance to defend themselves is provided in cases involving ejection from land, abduction, etc. During 1967-68 to 1977-78, legal assistance amounting to Rs. 6,825 was granted in 324 cases.

Subsidy for the Purchase of Pigs/Poultry Birds.—The deserving and the needy persons of the Scheduled Castes are given a subsidy of Rs. 800 each for the

purchase of four pigs of exotic or *desi* breed. The subsidy is given in kind and the purchase is effected from the Government Piggery Farm, Hissar. Pigs are also purchased from the open market. A sum of Rs. 92,000 was paid to 115 beneficiaries during 1966-67 to 1977-78. No subsidy for the poultry farm has been given so far.

Loans (Miscellaneous).—It was felt that the students of Scheduled Castes while pursuing studies found it very difficult to purchase books according to their requirement. An interest-free loan to the tune of Rs. 200 to each post-matric and Rs. 400 to each post-graduate Scheduled Caste student is advanced for the purchase of books and stationery articles. This loan is recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments and the recovery commences after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68 and up to 1977-78, a sum of Rs. 2,20,150 was paid as loan to 1,100 persons.

The Scheduled Castes were advanced loan out of Harijan Kalyan Fund for setting up different trades and professions. The maximum amount of loan was Rs. 2,000 (Rs. 5,000 in case of certain specified trades) and the rate of interest was 3 per cent. It was recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments and the recovery commenced after four years of its disbursement. The scheme was introduced in 1967-68 and discontinued in 1971-72. During the period 1967-68 to 1971-72, an amount of Rs. 9,43,320 was advanced to 1,143 persons in the Ambala district.

Under another scheme which was operative only for the year 1968-69, a sum of Rs. 61,000 was advanced as loan to 61 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes for the purchase of residential plots. The loan is recoverable in 20 half-yearly instalments with 3 per cent interest to be commenced after four years of disbursement.

Pre-Examination Training Centre, Ambala.—This centre was started in 1969 and is meant only for the members of the Scheduled Castes who are in search of jobs in government offices and want to learn Hindi/English typewriting and shorthand. This centre also helps them in preparation for competitions of lower division and upper division clerks and assistants. The trainees are given a monthly stipend of Rs. 75 to meet the expenses of boarding and lodging.

Although Scheduled Caste boys from other districts can seek admission to the centre, but the major benefit goes to the Scheduled Caste persons belonging to this district.

Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam Limited.—The Nigam advances loans at nominal rate of interest, repayable in easy instalments, for various trades/professions such as dairy farming, leather work, purchase of tempos and taxis, flour mills, brick kilns, poultry farming, piggery, purchase of sheep and goats, purchase and development of agricultural land, etc. The loan is also advanced

for higher studies. A loan up to Rs. 10,000 is given to an individual and up to Rs. 50,000 to registered partnership firms and co-operative societies consisting of all Scheduled Caste members.

The Nigam has a Field Officer at Ambala to look after the work in the Ambala district. The Nigam gives financial assistance to the Harijans for their social, economic and educational uplift.

The details of loans advanced by the Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam to the members of Scheduled Castes of the Ambala district for various trades/ professions during 1971-72 to 1977-78 are given below:

(Rs.)

Trade/Professions	Loan Advanced						
	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
Dairy Farming	40,500	16,500	44,000	79,250	37,520	25,200	77,500
Sheep and Goats	—	—	3,000	4,000	—	4,000	—
Leather Work	—	9,000	20,500	17,000	11,000	8,000	22,500
Piggery	3,000	7,000	8,000	26,000	7,000	2,000	6,000
Poultry Farming	1,500	2,000	3,500	2,000	3,000	—	5,000
Flour Mill	—	6,000	6,000	—	—	4,000	—
Legal Professions	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Higher Studies	—	—	—	5,000	—	500	—
Agriculture	—	—	4,000	4,500	—	10,000	20,000
Miscellaneous	—	17,500	9,000	20,000	11,000	4,000	17,000
Total	48,000	58,000	98,000	1,57,750	69,250	57,700	1,48,000

The Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam established a unit (Haryana Binders and Printers) at Panchkula in January, 1976. This unit is manufacturing exercise books and answer-books (for examinations) for supply to the school and college students at the rates fixed by the Government of India.

PROHIBITION

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

The policy of two dry days in a week did not bring about the desired result. The people had either been stocking liquor for consumption during the dry days or purchased their requirements from bootleggers. It also encouraged illicit distillation. The licencees also sometimes indulged in malpractice of selling on prohibited days. The whole situation was, therefore, reviewed and from April 1, 1970, it was decided to enforce only the policy of observing three closed days in a year. However, since April 1, 1973, every 7th day of a month is also observed as a closed day. This has been done as a check for the labour class against purchasing liquor on the day when they get their pay packets. Further, no liquor shop was to be opened within a distance of 50 metres from any educational institution or bus-stand or a place of public worship or public entertainment and within 100 metres of a school or a college for women. The maximum limit of keeping only one bottle of country liquor in an individual possession introduced on April 1, 1969, was allowed to continue.

Total prohibition was never enforced in the Ambala district. In 1977-78, there were 5 wholesale and 59 retail vends of country liquor and 9 wholesale and 66 retail vends of foreign liquor.

The consumption of excisable articles in the district during 1970-71 to 1977-78 was as follows :—

Year	Country Liquor	Foreign Liquor	Beer	Opium
	(Proof Litres)	(Proof Litres)	(Bulk Litres)	(Kilogram)
1970-71	6,63,134	2,14,429	1,42,262	1·184
1971-72	6,65,110	2,00,724	1,51,762	1·002
1972-73	7,00,000	2,41,282	2,42,682	1·072
1973-74	7,24,824	4,17,892	4,40,722	0·904
1974-75	7,65,000	4,79,875	2,71,559	1·000
1975-76	7,80,036	6,29,744	2,55,036	1·000
1976-77	8,42,903	8,10,627	4,47,168	1·000
1977-78	8,47,000	8,41,008	4,86,576	1·000

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

The oral consumption of opium for the general public was prohibited on April 1, 1959. The opium is only supplied to the registered addicts through the Chief Medical Officer, Ambala. There was no sale of *bhanga* after April, 1, 1965, due to total prohibition of its oral consumption.

Because of the restrictions on the sale of opium there is a black market in this commodity. It has also not been possible to check the illicit distillation of liquor completely. The cases detected under Excise and Opium Acts during 1960-61, 1965-66 and 1970-71 to 1977-78 are shown below :

Year	Number of Cases Detected Under	
	Excise Act	Opium Act
1960-61	419	165
1965-66	807	500
1970-71	756	435
1971-72	957	465
1972-73	878	474
1973-74	914	493
1974-75	396	831
1975-76	834	385
1976-77	826	600
1977-78	714	758

CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS

Charitable organisations play an important role in the society. Many educational institutions, hospitals, dharamsalas and other similar institutions

are run by these organisations. The finances are either derived from contributions or revenue free land attached to them. Mukand Lal Trust, Yamunanagar and Sant Nishchal Singh Trust, Yamunanagar are of special note. Mukand Lal Trust is running a post-graduate college at Yamunanagar and a few institutions at Radaur (Kurukshetra district). Sant Nishchal Singh Trust is running Guru Nanak Girls High School and Guru Nanak Girls College and a charitable hospital at Yamunanagar.

Besides, there are some other trusts which are running educational institutions and hospitals in various parts of the district.