

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Miscellaneous occupations falling under tertiary sector of economy not finding mention elsewhere are described in the following pages. These professions comprise services; public, defence, private, personal and domestic or self employment to meet the daily needs of people. The growth of these occupations depends greatly on economic development. During the beginning of the 20th century, almost three-quarters of the population of the district were engaged in agriculture or in occupations auxiliary thereto or were dependent on such persons. The remaining quarter of the population, except a few who were employed in state service or railways earned their livelihood by supplying the wants of the agricultural population.¹ To name a few, these occupations included potters, blacksmiths, carpenters, shoe-makers, barbers, *teli*, water-carriers, and the like. These services in villages were customary and they patronised their clients. In towns, the position was not very different but sometimes the payment was cash and few of them had opened their shops. These occupations have undergone a major change and now conforms broadly to the all-India pattern.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Persons in public services form a very small proportion of the total population but have major role in every activity of the district. These include number of persons employed in administrative departments and offices of state government, central government, quasi-government organisations, local bodies, etc. Roughly half per cent of the total population of the district was employed in public service in 1881 and there was hardly any improvement till the Independence giving in general the idea about the absence of the government involvement in the welfare of the masses. The chief functions of the British administration were law and order and revenue collection. After Independence the expansion in the welfare activities of the government led to creation of several development departments. Consequently, the number of employees increased and 1.2 per cent of the population were employed in public service in 1966. After the formation of Haryana in 1966, various

1. *Hissar District Gazetteer, 1915*, p. 55.

development programmes were launched by the Haryana government and there was a significant growth in the number of public services and in 1976, more than 2 per cent of the population was involved in it. The following table indicates the growth of public services during 1976 to 1978 :—

Year	Employment in Public Services					Total
	Central Government	State Government	Quasi Government	Local Bodies		
1976	2,768	17,813	3,658	1,213	25,452	
1977	1,825	15,978	4,276	1,192	23,271	
1978	1,794	16,930	4,949	1,156	24,829	

The persons in the government service are given dearness allowance related to the cost of living. Grade IV employees are provided with liveries. Loans and advances for the construction of houses, purchase of vehicle and celebration of marriages of children are granted to government employees.

Group Insurance scheme was introduced for all State government employees in 1976. Under this scheme each employee contributes rupee one per month which is deducted from his pay and provisions have been made to provide Rs. 5,000 to the family of the employee who dies while in service. The government has also made provisions for family pension, ex-gratia grant, free medical aid, free educational facilities up to the degree level to the children of the deceased government servant and employment to one or more members of the family besides house rent allowance or the retention of government house on usual rent for a year after the death of the government servant. Some categories of government employees are eligible for rent free accommodation. The government have also provided residential accommodation to government employees against a deduction of 10 per cent of the pay. Since government houses are limited, the allotment is made seniority-wise. The government employees who have not been provided with government accommodation, are paid house rent allowance according to classification of town on the basis of population. The rate of house rent allowance at Hisar, and Hansi is 7.5 per cent of the pay.

Employees in public service are not restricted from forming associations or unions to voice their grievances and to safeguard their service interest.

DEFENCE SERVICES

The district was fairly popular as a recruiting ground for the British army and contributed a large number of recruits to different branches of the defence services during the two World Wars. The soldiers of the district gave prestigious performance during World War II and the military cross was awarded each to Sub. Bir Singh (village Biana Khera-Hansi tahsil) and Maj. Thandi Ram (Village Nehla-Fatehabad tahsil).

A large number of soldiers from the district fought gallantly for the country's defence during Jammu and Kashmir Operation, 1948 and the three aggressions from 1961 to 1971. The details of the officers and soldiers of the district who were awarded gallantry awards for their distinguished services on the battlefield are given below :

Recipient	Resident of Village/Tahsil	Award
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Jammu and Kashmir Operation, 1948

1. Brig. K.V. Lamba	Fatehabad/Fatehabad	Vir Chakra
2. Maj. Thandi Ram	Nehla/Fatehabad	Vir Chakra
3. Sepoy Ram Singh	Chandpura/Tohana	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
4. Hon. Lt. Sheo Chand	Kuleri/Fatehabad	Vir Chakra
5. Sepoy Ran Singh	Balak/Hisar	Vir Chakra
6. Sepoy Har Chand	Amani/Tohana	Ashok Chakra (Posthumous)

Indo-Pak Conflict-1965

1. Sqn. Ldr. S.N. Bansal	Hisar/Hisar	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
2. Sub. Man Singh	Rajli/Hisar	Shaurya Chakra

Pakistan Aggression, 1971 and after

1. 2nd Lt. Hawa Singh	Mirzapur/Hisar	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
2. Hav. Kishan Singh	Kajla/Hisar	Vir Chakra (Posthumous)
3. Maj. Sher Singh	Abrer/Hisar	Sena Medal

1	2	3	4
4.	Sqn. Ldr. S.N. Rathore	Hisar/Hisar	Vayu Sena Medal
5.	Comdr. B.S. Uppal	Hisar/Hisar	Nao Sena Medal
6.	Wing Comdr. Tejwant Singh	Ukiana Mandi/Hisar	Shaurya Chakra

Seventy one soldiers belonging to the district were reported killed or wounded during the Pakistan Aggression, 1971.

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

The Zila Sainik Board, Hisar looks after the welfare of the ex-servicemen and the families of the serving defence personnel. Two funds namely Post War Service Reconstruction Fund (raised during the World War-II) and the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of ex-servicemen (raised in 1964) have been created by the Government of India for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their dependents. The income from these funds is mainly utilised for grant of stipends to ex-servicemen/their dependents and grant of loans to the ex-servicemen for their rehabilitation.

SERVICES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

With the growth of economic activity, employment avenues increased within private sector also. Although the people preferred government employment due to security of service and benefits of dearness allowance, house rent allowance, etc., yet the private sector absorbed a significant section of the population. The skilled and experienced persons in private sector get an edge even over the government employees in the matter of wages and other benefits. The provision of bonus, overtime allowance, contributory provident fund and non-transferable status of the employment were quite a few provisions which made

employment in private service attractive. The industrial and commercial establishments, shops, schools and other educational institutions provide most of employment in private sector. Over 11 thousand persons were employed in the district in private sector in 1977-78. There are adequate measures under various labour laws to look after the welfare of workers in industrial establishment.¹

The commercial establishments and shopkeepers in towns employ assistants, shop assistants, salesmen and helpers. The working conditions and wages of these employees are regulated through the provisions of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.

The pay scales of teachers in private institutions are same as of those in government institutions. The teachers in private colleges like those in government colleges are governed by scales prescribed by the University Grants Commission.

PERSONAL SERVICES

These services include barbers, washermen and tailors.

Barbers.—The hair dressing, hair cutting and shaving services are rendered by barbers.

The barber performed customary services to his clients. He combined the occupation of shaving and hair cutting and messenger of news of weddings and other auspicious events. He took leading part in all family ceremonies. He was not given any fixed renumeration but was given a share in harvest like other village menials.

The old practice of family barber has faded away. The barbers in rural areas still patronise their clients and visit their houses for service and get the renumeration in kind. At some places they have opened shops or use the front room of their houses but visit the houses of their clients when called. In urban areas, the barbers have opened their shops and a few of them have employed barbers on monthly wages. The barbers in Hisar town have their union and its members follow the rules and regulations, rates and other matters.

Barbers particularly in rural areas play an important role at social ceremonies. The *nain* (wife of the barber) does some sort of hair cleaning and hair dressing for women in villages. Her presence on some social and religious ceremonies is necessary. This age-old practice have vanished in urban areas and is also decreasing in rural areas.

1. For more details see Chapter on 'Other Social Services'.

The number of barbers, hair cutters, hair dressers and related workers in 1976 was about 1,837.

Washermen .—Washermen include *dhabis*, launderers and dry cleaners. In rural areas, people do their own washing. In urban areas, washermen collect clothes from their customers. Of late, with the introduction of synthetic yarn clothes, washing by *dhabis* is on the wane. The people get their terrycot or terene clothes dry cleaned or wash these clothes themselves and get it pressed from *dhabis*. Many *dhabis* have now opened pressing stalls on street corners and do pressing work at their laundry shops where they do washing and dry cleaning also. Many exclusive shops for dry cleaning have also been opened which are equipped with automatic and steam pressing plants.

In 1976, there were 615 persons engaged in this service.

Tailors .—It includes tailors, dress makers, and related workers. They are widely spread in urban and rural areas. In urban areas the tailors make shirts, bushirts, pants, coats, pyjamas, ladies suits and blouses while in rural areas they make shirts, pants, pyjamas and ladies suits. With the passage of time, the style of clothes have undergone a complete change in the urban areas and the people increasingly wear modern clothing and latest fashion wear. The tailoring charges vary from place to place and shop to shop but rates are lower in rural areas than in urban areas.

The number of tailors in 1976 was 2,790.

SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

The scope of self-employed is very wide. It includes weavers, shoe-makers and cobblers, sweepers, potters, pedlers, hawkers, priests and all those persons who produce articles of use or provide their individual services on demand. Another class is that of rickshaw pullers, *rehra* and tonga drivers and auto rickshaw and tempo drivers. The following paragraphs will detail the activities of all these self employed persons.

The time old weavers, shoe-makers, sweepers, potters and priests are spread throughout the district and serve the rural as well as urban people. Most of them in rural areas help the farmers in their fields and perform customary professional services on the occasion of marriages and other ceremonies. The shoe-maker and cobbler with his equipment hanging by the shoulder may be seen hawking for his services in the

street. They usually attend to repairing and mending of shoes. The potters make ordinary vessels mostly for the use of villagers but also make pitchers and *surahis* during summer season. The sweepers engaged in cleaning houses in urban areas get a few rupees per month in addition to a *chapati* daily or weekly and occasionally small gifts in cash and kind on festivals and other ceremonies. Performance of religious ceremonies has been a full time occupation of priests who conduct worship and perform rites in accordance with religious scriptures and recognised practices in temples or at the house of their clients. Some of them practise the art of astrology and palmistry. They make their living in return for their services.

Hand cart pedlers and hawkers go about the towns and villages hawking their goods. They sell articles of daily use, vegetables, fruits, eatables, general merchandise, crockery, clothes and toys.

Transport has also attracted quite a few persons who have hired rickshaws, some have managed to own auto rickshaw or tempo through bank loans. Still another category is of *rehra* or horse cart or tonga drivers. The *rehra* drawn by camels or bullocks or horse cart is used for transporting luggage, grains or other miscellaneous things and is popular in *mandis*. The tonga which was very popular before the Partition, is very rare sight though a few tongas are used for haulage between the town and sub-urban villages. The rickshaw which appeared after the Partition, provides a cheap means of conveyance and has become very popular for local haulages. Of late, the auto rickshaw and tempos have appeared on the scene. The tempos are used for sub-urban haulage whereas auto rickshaws ply in towns and supplement rickshaw and local bus service.

These are few self-employed persons which needed special mention but the account will be incomplete if we do not mention professions like *thatheras*, *halwais*, *pan bidi* sellers, cycle, scooter and motor cycle repairers, and soft drink bottlers. The services of these miscellaneous self-employed persons meet the daily requirement of the community at large and follow the general pattern of daily Indian life in a town or a village.

DOMESTIC SERVICES

The domestic service include cooks, servants and maid servants. Employing of a domestic servant was considered as a sign of affluence, in the past. People of high class in towns and some land-lords in

villages used to engage servants for domestic work. These servants were drawn mostly from under employed population. A domestic servant was paid between Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per month in addition to meal and clothes till about the first quarter of 20th century. With the passage of time and opening of other avenues which provided increasing opportunities of employment elsewhere, the domestic service has become costlier and is not easily available. However, part time maid servants to supplement their meagre family income help in washing and cleaning of utensils on an average payment of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per month. A few domestic servants who come from other parts of the country, have been employed by affluents and are paid Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per mensum beside food and clothing. In rural areas hardly any family employs servant for domestic work. The *halis* besides attending to agricultural operations do domestic chores for their masters.