

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Social services as now understood are a new phase of public activities which have been assuming greater importance to fulfil the aims and objectives of a welfare state. Before Independence, the Government paid little attention to social welfare and was mainly concerned with the maintenance of law and order, preservation of peace and guarding the life and property of the people. After Independence the Government introduced and implemented various measures for ameliorating the condition of the, backward sections of the society which were neglected or exploited and suffered from a number of disabilities for centuries together.

LABOUR WELFARE

Labour welfare, in a wider term, means everything that contributes to the improvement of the health, safety, general well-being and productive efficiency of the workers. It further includes such services, facilities and amenities as may be provided in or outside the vicinity of undertakings to enable the persons employed to perform their work in healthy and congenial surroundings.

Prior to Independence, there was no regular Government organization to look after the welfare of industrial workers, and to settle industrial disputes and other connected labour problems. A separate Labour Department in the Punjab State was established in 1949. After the creation of Haryana, the posts of Labour Officer and Conciliation Officer were combined and a Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Sonipat. He is assisted by 2 Labour Inspectors. The administrative control at district level is vested with the Deputy Labour Commissioner. One Factory Inspector was posted at Sonipat under the control of the Senior Inspector of Factories Panipat. All the above officers are under the overall control of the Labour Commissioner and Chief Inspector of Factories, Haryana, Chandigarh.

Labour Legislation

Labour legislation is that body of legal enactments and judicial principles which deals with employment, wages, working conditions, industrial relations, social security and labour welfare of industrial workers. It is that part of the state action by which the state intervenes in the conduct of industry and imposes statutory obligations for the most part on the employees and to a subsidiary degree, on the workmen. To tackle the labour problems many labour Acts were passed by the Central and State Governments.

The more important labour laws implemented are listed in the Table **XXI** of Appendix.

Industrial Relations.—The relations between the workers and employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Deputy Labour Commissioner, Sonipat is responsible for enforcing it. His efforts are directed towards fostering good relations between the management and the workers by removing, as far as possible, the causes of friction 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 compulsory adjudication. On his failure, the matter is referred to the Labour Court/Industrial, Tribunal, Faridabad/Rohtak through Government. Reference to the National Tribunal is to be made by the Central Government to cover such cases as are of national importance or those in which establishment of more than one state are affected.

During 1988-89, 365 dispute cases were handled. The number of cases settled/withdrawn/filed after enquiries was 354 as on March 31, 1989.

Works Committees.—To promote good relations between the employers and workmen, there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for setting up of works committees in the industrial establishments, employing 100 or more workmen. Such Committees consisting of representatives of employers and the workmen exist in the following establishments :—

- (i) The Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat
- (ii) The Milton Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat
- (iii) E.C.E. Transformer Division, Sonipat
- (iv) E.C.E. Lamp Division, Sonipat
- (v) Maco Pvt. Limited, Sonipat
- (vi) Avon Scales Company, Sonipat
- (vii) Bharat Steel Tubes Limited, Ganaur
- (viii) Hindustan Everset Tools Limited, Sonipat
- (ix) Municipal Committee, Sonipat
- (x) Elasto Chemi (P) Limited, Sonipat
- (xi) Hilton Rubber Limited, Rai
- (xii) Gedore Tools India, Kundli

Strikes.—In spite of the efforts to promote good relations between the employers and workmen, strikes occur now and then. The details of the noticeable strikes that occurred in the district during 1975-76 to 1988-89 are given below :—

Sr. No.	Name of the Establishments	Strikes		No. of workers involved	Mandays Lost
		Began	Ended		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s Gedore Tools India Limited, Kundli	17-2-1977	18-2-1977	886	949
2.	Ditto	11-3-1977	21-4-1977	979	33,494
3.	M/s Atlas Cycle (P) Limited, Sonipat	23-8-1977	19-9-1977	3,324	71,776
4.	M/s Milton Cycle Industries, Sonipat	20-8-1977	26-8-1977	650	14,300
5.	M/s Hindustan Everest Tools, Sonipat	19-9-1977	4-10-1977	498	6,972
6.	Ditto	13-10-1977	15-10-1977	700	2,100
7.	M/s Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonipat	28-10-1977	22-11-1977	3,230	84,010
8.	M/s Hilton Rubber (P) Limited, Sonipat	4-5-1979	17-5-1979	435	5,220
9.	M/s Milton Cycle Industries, Sonipat	11-12-1979	16-1-1980	536	16,080

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There was no work stoppage during 1981 and 1983.

Trade Unions.—The trade union movement gained momentum since Independence. Since then the number of registered trade unions has been increasing. During 1988-89, there were 56 trade unions registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. Their list may be seen in the Table XXII of Appendix.

(1) Further details regarding the lock-outs during 1985 to 1989 may be seen in the Table of XXIII Appendix.

Factories Act, 1948.—The Act regulates the conditions of labour in factories not using power and employing 20 or more workers and in factories using power and employing 10 or more workers. Elaborate provisions have been made in the Act regarding the conditions of work inside the factories including hours of work, leave with wages in case of occupational diseases, employment of young persons, safeguards for health, hygiene, and promotion of safety and welfare of workers in general. Special provisions exist for young persons and women. Facilities for rendering first-aid, running canteens and creches, making available drinking water, etc. near the place of work are also provided.

With the establishment of large-scale units during the Third Five-Year Plan, the extension of various provisions of the Factories Act for labour welfare assumed special importance. The attitude of employer has changed in favour of providing better amenities to labourers. Consequently, there is no special problem about the enforcement of statutory provisions like appointment of Labour Officer and provision of basic amenities at the place of work. Promising and progressive factories like Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur, the Atlas Cycle Industries Limited, Sonipat and Hindustan Everest Tools Limited, Sonipat have gone a step further and provided, among other facilities free medical aid, sale of consumer goods at fair prices on credit, residential quarters and transport to and from factory site.

Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme.—Realising the importance of housing and environmental hygiene as a welfare amenity within the means of workers, the Government of India initiated the subsidised industrial housing scheme in September, 1952.

A colony of 126 houses was set up at Sonipat. The rent for two room-set is charged at the rate of Rs. 16. Workers getting a salary upto Rs. 350 per mensem are entitled to a two-room set. The colony has been provided with electricity and water and there is provision for park and other modern amenities.

Subsidised by the Government, Bawa Iron and Steel Works Limited, Sonipat, and M/s Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur, constructed 30 and 224 two-roomed tenements, respectively. One tenement consists of 2 rooms, a kitchen, bath and flush latrine. These colonies are situated near the factories. This enables the workers residing in these tenements to enjoy fresh food at their residences during the lunch break. A large number of houses have been constructed by the B.K. Iron and Steel at Sonipat.

A worker has to pay only Rs. 20 to Rs. 24 per month as rent.

Creche for Women Labour.—The Labour Department set up a creche in Labour Welfare Centre at Sonipat where the working women can leave their

children during the working hours. For looking after these children, trained *aya* has been appointed.

Mode of Entertainment.—A Labour Welfare Centre is being run at Sonipat by the Government. There is provision of library and indoor games for the entertainment of the workers. The sewing, knitting and embroidery classes are held here. The family members of the workers get training under the supervision of a whole time teacher. The cloths and other stitching material are provided free of cost to these trainees. The preference is given to their trainees to purchase the clothes at reasonable price.

The Labour Welfare Board is also maintaining a film library where educational and feature films are kept. If the managements so desire, these films are screened in worker colonies and factory premises for the entertainment of workers and their families.

Two Holiday Homes at Hardwar and Kasauli set up by the Board continued functioning. The Houses are equipped with beddings and cooking utensils. The workers sponsored by their managements can go and stay with the members of their family without any charge. The workers are even paid one way fare by the Board and other way fare by the sponsoring employers.

In addition, some social organisations have also set up libraries.

Labour Welfare Officers.—Under section 49 of the Factories Act, the establishments employing 500 or more workers are required to appoint a Labour Welfare Officer. There are eight such factories (M/s Atlas Cycle Industries, Sonipat, M/s Milton Cycle Industries, Sonipat, M/s E.C.E., Sonipat, M/s. Bharat Steel Tubes, Ganaur, M/s Haryana Sheet Glass, Sewali, M/s Hilton Rubber (P) Limited, Rai, M/s Gedore Tools (P) Limited, Kundli and M/s Haryana Sheet and Alloys Limited, Murthal) which appointed Labour Welfare Officers.

General Wages.—The wages of the workers employed in the factories have been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. The Officers of Labour Department posted at Sonipat are looking after the implementation of Minimum Wages Act and wherever any violation is detected, necessary steps are taken.

Employees' Provident Funds Scheme.—This scheme was sponsored by the Government of India under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. It was designed to provide social security to workers in the old age and other emergent situations during his life time. The scheme was introduced in the district on November 1, 1952 in the industrial concerns/establishments. Initially it was applicable only to such factories/establishments which employed 50 or more persons but this limit was lowered on December 31, 1960 and the establishments employing 20 or more persons were covered under this scheme.

Till January, 1963, provident fund contribution was deducted at the rate of 6½ per cent from the monthly emoluments of the subscribers and an equal amount was contributed by the employers. The rate of monthly deductions was enhanced from 6½ per cent to 8 per cent on January 1, 1963, in respect of industries/establishments employing 50 or more persons. During 1988-89, there were 267 establishments and 22,024 subscribers under this scheme in the district.

The fund vests in a Central Board of Trustees having the nominees of Central Government, State Government and representatives of employers and workers. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Faridabad, is responsible for the implementation of this scheme. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner, New Delhi, is the Chief Executive Officer.

The subscriber can withdraw money from the provident fund for certain approved purposes. He is allowed to withdraw the full amount standing to his credit in the fund on completing 10 years of membership ; or on attaining the age of 55 years ; or after retirement from the 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 retrenchment.

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 as assured by way of relief. Now the sum assured has been enhanced to Rs. 1,250. A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of an industrial retrenchment in order to mitigate the immediate hardship. Under this scheme a sum of Rs. 6,16,399 was paid during 1988-89 to 128 claimants.

Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Scheme, 1971.—This is also a centrally sponsored scheme which was introduced by amending the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, on March 1, 1971. It provides Family pension to the heirs of the members of the fund who die prematurely while in service.

No additional liability on the members is imposed under the scheme, but 1½ per cent of his wages are transferred to family pension fund out of the amount of the subscriber as well as employer's contributions payable under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The members who join the above scheme at the age of 25 years or less and retire after attaining the age of 60 years are eligible to get upto a sum of Rs. 19,825. Similarly, those who leave service for reasons other than death are allowed withdrawal benefits at certain rates. For those who join the scheme after the age of 25 years, a percentage reduction in benefits has been prescribed.

The benefits are admissible only if the member has contributed for 3 months otherwise his own share of contribution to the family pension fund alongwith interest at the rate of 8.5 per cent is refundable to him.

During 1988-89, 107 family pension claims were settled with the amount ranging between Rs. 225 to Rs. 750 per month.

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 allowance, if any, payable to the employees and 0.01 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 3 years. The payment shall not exceed Rs. 10,000.

In the Sonipat district 4 relief cases were settled and an amount of Rs. 21,296 was paid under this scheme during the year 1988-89.

EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SCHEME.—This scheme is designed to accomplish the task of protecting employees as defined in the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 against the hazards of sickness, maternity, disablement and death due to employment injury and to provide medical care to insured persons and their families.

The scheme provides protection to all employees engaged on monthly remuneration not exceeding rupees one thousand in a factory using power and employing 20 or more persons. The Act places prime responsibility on employers of paying as well as the employees' share of the contribution. The contributions are payable by the employee and his employer. The employees' share is to be deducted from his wages by the employer. The employee's contribution, is 2.25% of the wages while the employer's contribution is 5%. The amount of weekly contribution payable in respect of an employee, depends upon his average wages during that week, and contributions are payable in respect of every week for the whole or part of which an employee is employed and received wages.

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, Faridabad who inspects factories, collects contributions and arranges the payment of cash benefits.

The provision of medical benefit 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. As 7/8 of the expenditure incurred on medical care is contributed by the Employees State Insurance Corporation and the remaining 1/8 of the total expenditure is borne by the State Government. The expenditure on other cash benefits is to be met entirely out of the Employees State Insurance Fund and is arranged by the Regional Director.

The position of scheme in the district as on March 31, 1989 at the following centres is as follows:—

Sr. No.	Centres Name of the village	Date of Implemen- tation u/s(3)of the Act.	Date of extension u/s(5) of the Act.
1	2	3	4
1.	Sonipat (Garhi Brahaman, Jamalpur Khurd, Kalupur)	19-2-61	30-3-75 and 25-4-76
2.	Contiguous area of Sonipat Village Lehrara	5-9-82	16-10-83
	Village, Liwaspur	27-11-83	15-11-86
3.	Bahalagarh (Sonipat) Bahalgarh Road, Jamalpur	31-1-82	16-10-83
4.	Bhalgarh (Sonipat) Bahalgarh, Depalpur, Fazilpur, Ahmedpur	25-1-76	16-1-82
5.	Kundli, Rai and Rasoi (Sonipat) Jatheri, Badhmalik, Rai, Asamarpur, Kundli, Nangal Kalan, Nathupur	9-5-82	16-5-85
6.	Contiguous area of Kundli and Rai (Sonipat) Village Rasoi Village Sevli	11-9-83	16-5-85
7.	Murthal (Sonipat) Murthal	9-5-82	16-10-83

1	2	3	4
8	Ganaur (Sonipat) Ganaur	25-2-68	30-3-75 and 25-4-76

The number of employees in the 8 centres in the district was 18, 547 working in 179 units as on 31st March, 1989.

Free medical treatment to the insured persons and the members of their families is administered through E.S.I. dispensaries set up at each centre by the State Government besides there is an in-door ward with 12 beds in ESI dispensary, Sonipat.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Government has the responsibility to uplift and rehabilitate the socially and economically backward sections of the society. Keeping in view this object, many schemes have been launched, a few of which are described below :—

Old-age pension.—The implementation of old age pension (liberalised) scheme introduced by Haryana Government headed by Chaudhri Devi Lal Ji with effect from 17th June, 1987 is taking place very speedily. The Department of Social Welfare had been granting old age pension earlier also ; but the erstwhile old age pension was at Rs. 60 p.m. per head. A lot of procedural formalities were required to be completed before the pension was sanctioned by the Directorate of Social Welfare. The applicants were required to produce a documentary proof in support of their age and monthly income from the medical /revenue authorities; and they had to run from pillar to post in order to get the entire procedural formalities completed. Under the old scheme, the pension was granted to only those applicants whose income was less than Rs. 50 per month and who were not supported by their close relatives i.e. sons/grand-sons/husband etc.

Under the new liberalised old age pension scheme, the procedure for grant of pension has been simplified to a great extent and the criteria for determining the eligibility of an applicant has also been liberalised. Now pension is granted at Rs. 100 per month to every senior citizen aged 65 years or above provided he or she is not an income tax payee and is not drawing any other service pension. The amount of old age pension is reduced by the amount of pension already drawn by a person in case of those persons who are drawing pension less than Rs. 100 per month from some other source if they are

eligible for old age pension otherwise. However, the persons already receiving old age pension under the earlier old age pension scheme at Rs. 60 per month will continue to receive pension at the old rates unless they are eligible to draw pension at enhanced rates of Rs. 100 per month under new scheme. Both husband and wife are separately eligible for pension.

It is, therefore, not a pension for the destitute but a gratitude paid to Senior Citizens of the State who have toiled for 65 years of their life in making Haryana one of the most prosperous States in the country.

The procedure for sanction and disbursement of pension has been greatly simplified. A Committee comprising of block Development and Panchayat Officer/Social Education and Panchayat Officer/Tahsildar/Naib/Tahsildar and one more officer nominated by the Deputy Commissioner scrutinizes the eligibility of the applicants in the presence of the entire community in the village/town itself. Prior publicity about the date, time and venue of the visit of the Committee in the village/town is made. The Committee ascertains the age of the applicant taking into account all oral and documentary evidence and the physical appearance of the applicant. The Committee grants the pension on the spot except in disputed cases which are decided by a Committee at the district level to be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner.

The application forms are made available to persons desirous of obtaining the pension on the spot. The Committee assists those persons in filling up the application forms. The requirement of medical certificate as a proof of age of an applicant has been done away with. This would to a great extent eliminate the harassment of the applicants.

Now an applicant has not to get his application verified from any authority nor be required to arrange any medical certificate as the proof of his age. He is not required to run from pillar to post for the grant of his pension.

Since the scrutiny of those applicants who become eligible for grant of pension in a year is conducted in the month of April, May and June every year, hence a special campaign was launched for identification of new beneficiaries in the year, 1987-88.

Annual verification of the fact that a pensioner is alive is also conducted once in a year. The Scrutiny Committee has to conduct this verification during the campaign of identification of new beneficiaries. Similarly the Committee ascertains if any of the beneficiary under any of the pension scheme has become ineligible for pension. All the existing pensioners are required to present themselves before the Scrutiny Committee for this purpose.

As is clear from the above mentioned simplified and liberalised procedure of old age pension, Haryana State has the proud privilege of being the first State to introduce such a liberalised concept of old age pension which has given a sense of dignity and social security to the senior citizens of Haryana and also focussed a special attention in catering to the needs and requirements of the elderly persons in the evening of their lives. By the introduction of this scheme, the elders have got special recognition in their families which was deteriorating as a result of breaking-up of the joint families. Furthermore, by involving the local community, the Government has put trust in the general public in deciding the grant of pension. Under this revised system of sanction/distribution of old age pension it has been so streamlined to render chances of corruption minimal. Now the disbursement of the pension is done through the Commission Agents. In 1988-89, there were 56,717 old age pensioners in the district.

Pension schemes for the benefit of widows and handicapped persons are also in existence in the State from 1979-80 and 1981-82, respectively.

Pension to widows and Destitute Women.—Earlier the widow/destitute pension was to be granted to only those women, aged less than 50 years, who were deprived of financial support from their husbands, because of desertion or absence or physical/mental disability of the husbands and whose close relatives such as parents, sons and grand sons were not supporting them. The rate of pension was Rs. 50 per month. The income ceiling to determine the eligibility of applicant for the grant of pension has been increased from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 200 per month with effect from 1st April, 1989. The rate of pension has also been enhanced from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 75 per month per head with effect from 1st April, 1989.

Earlier women receiving widow/destitute pension were covered under the old age pension scheme after attaining the age of 50 years. However, with the introduction of liberalised old age pension scheme, the qualifying age for old age pension was relaxed to 65 years. Therefore, with effect from 21st April, 1988, women in age group of 18-65 years have been made eligible for grant of widow pension.

The procedure for grant of widow pension has also been simplified on the pattern of old age pension (Liberalised). Now the Committee for Scrutiny for old age pension, also scrutinises the eligibility of the applicants for widow pension during their visit to the village/towns for grant of old age pension. Every year the scrutiny Committee is required to visit the village/towns for grant of widow pension to fresh applicants. Pension to such pensioners is sanctioned with effect from 1st of July. This Committee will in future also verify the continued eligibility of the existing pensioners for widow pension.

Pension to Handicapped Persons.—Similarly the handicapped pension is granted to handicapped persons of Haryana domicile in the age group of 21¹ to 65 years provided that they are without any means of subsistence and can not do any work to earn their livelihood and have been residing in Haryana State for more than 3 years at the time of making application for grant of handicapped pension and are deprived of financial support from their close relatives such as sons, husband/wife and monthly income from all sources is less than Rs. 200 per month. After the attainment of 65 years of age the beneficiaries are transferred to old age pension. The income ceiling to determine the eligibility of applicant for grant of pension has been increased from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 200 per month with effect from 1st April, 1989. The rate of pension has also been increased from Rs. 50 per month to Rs. 75 per month per head with effect from 1st April, 1989.

The procedure for grant of pension has also been further simplified on the pattern of old age pension (Liberalised). Now the Committee for scrutiny for old age pension also scrutinises the eligibility of applicants for handicapped pension during their visit to the villages/towns for grant of old age pension. The applicant has to produce a certificate from Government doctor as a proof of his disability which is required to be 70% at least. C.M.O. is required to hold medical camps to facilitate the issue of medical certificates to applicants.

Committee for scrutiny for grant of handicapped pension is sent to all the villages/towns during the months of April, May and June under the new procedure.

Scholarship to the Physically handicapped.—The economic protection in the form of scholarship is provided to the physically handicapped children, provided they belong to lower income families, studying up to middle class. In April, 1977. Government extended this facility to such students, of higher studies also. The rate of scholarship ranges between Rs. 60 to Rs. 340. During the year, 1988-89, 441 students were given scholarship in the district.

Nutrition Programme.—This is a centrally sponsored scheme which was introduced in 1970-71. Under this scheme, nutrition was provided only to the children less than 3 years of age living in urban slums. From 1971-72, entire group of pre-school children below six years of age and expectant mothers in the urban areas were also brought under the purview of the scheme.²

1. In order to grant pension to every handicapped person, the Government has now decided to do away with the condition of lower age limit. However the other conditions will remain unchanged
2. Nutrition scheme stands abolished in 1988-89.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES

The Scheduled Castes, Vimukt Jatis and other Backward Classes residing in the district are as under :—

Scheduled Castes	Vimukt Jatis	Backward Classes
Ad Dharmi	Bangali	Jhinwar
Bangali	Barar	Nai (Kulcen Brahman)
Barar, Burar or Berar	Bauria	Kumhar
Batwal	Gandhila	Khati (Jangra Brahman)
Bauria or Bawaria	Sansi	Lohar
Bazigar	Kuchband	Jogi Nath
Balmiki, Chura or Bhangi	Rachhbana	Gawaria (Banjara)
Banjara	Aharia or Aheri	Dhobi
Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi or Ravidasi	Singhikat	Baragi
Dagi	Dhe	Bhat
Dhanak		Dakut
Dumna, Mahasha or Doom		Chhipi, Tank or Darzi
Kabir Panthi or Dumna		Naiks, Aheria or Aheri
Khatik		Bharbhunja
Kori or Koli		Manihar
Mazhabi		Bagria
Nat		
Od		
Pasi		
Perna		
Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh		
Sapela		
Sarera		
Sikligar		
Sirkiband		

The different professions adopted by these classes are almost traditional. These include agricultural labour, sweeping, scavenging, shoe-making or shoe repairing, basket and rope-making, *chhaj* and *sirki*-making, animal rearing, snake-charming, hair-cutting, iron-smithy, washing, tailoring, dyeing, etc.

Prior to Independence, the Scheduled Castes suffered from many disabilities in the district as in the rest of the country. The untouchability prevailed among Hindus to a large extent in spite of the efforts of social reformers. The social disabilities were accompanied by wide economic and cultural disabilities, each reinforcing the other in the caste-ridden and stratified society. The opportunities for betterment were practically denied. Backward Classes did not suffer these disabilities to the same extent. The Government has implemented the following schemes to uplift the Backward Classes.

Scheme for Welfare of Harijan Widows.—Started in 1974-75, the scheme provides the means of livelihood to the widows who have no sources of income. It enables them to stand on their feet. Under the scheme, free training is imparted to them in cutting, sewing and embroidery. Besides, the expenditure on the raw material required for the training is also borne by the Government. The Harijan trainees get stipend of Rs. 100 each per month during the course of one year training. After training, each trainee is supplied with a new machine so that she may earn her livelihood. Till March 31, 1939, 145 widows were trained and each one of them was given a sewing machine to earn her living.

Subsidy for House-Sites.—Congested houses in Harijan *bastis* posed a serious problem. Although, the Punjab Village Common Lands (Registration) Act, 1961 conferred upon Harijans, the proprietary rights over the sites under their houses, yet the problem was not solved. Under the centrally-sponsored scheme introduced in 1958-59, a sum of Rs. 200 was granted as a subsidy to each deserving and needy member of Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, for the purchase of house sites. The scheme was, however, dropped in 1967-68 as the amount was considered meagre to purchase a plot. Later, in 1968-69, this facility for house sites was again made available. This time an amount of Rs. 1,000 as loan was permissible to the needy persons of the above castes. But this scheme was again withdrawn due to rise in the price of land. Under a special programme, Harijans are now given a site of 100 square yards free of cost.

Subsidy for the Construction of New Houses.—A scheme for the grant of subsidy of Rs. 900 for construction of a new house was started in 1963-64. The amount was raised from Rs. 900 to Rs. 2,000 in 1974-75 and Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 in 1988-89. This facility improved their standard of living to some extent. During the year 1988-89, a sum of Rs. 2,40,000 was disbursed to 48 beneficiaries.

Drinking Water Amenities.—Grants are given to Harijans in rural as well as in urban areas for the provision of drinking water facilities. The wells and hand-pumps constructed/installed as such are open to the general public also. This scheme was introduced during 1955-56. A sum of Rs. 1,54,440 was disbursed as subsidy for digging 112 wells, for the repair of 268 wells, 18 hand pumps and old wells in 230 villages of the district as on March 31, 1989.

Award of Scholarship and Re-imbursement of Fees.—One of the important schemes aiming at the improvement of the educational standards of the members of these classes, relates to the award of scholarship and re-imbursement fees to such students. The details of such schemes are given in the chapter 'Education and Culture'.

Facilities for Industrial Training.—To improve the economic condition of Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes, their young men are trained as skilled workers in various trades in different industrial training institutions. During the course, a scholarship of Rs. 45 per month is given to the students of Scheduled Castes. This amount was increased to Rs. 75 on December, 27, 1982. The students residing in hostels are given a scholarship of Rs. 100 per month. By March 31, 1989, a large number of students were given stipends under the scheme.

Grant of Interest-Free Loan.—This scheme was introduced in 1958-59. For lack of finances, professionally trained members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes find it difficult to run the professions of law, medicine, engineering architecture. Besides above categories of persons, there are other members who need money for expanding or establishing an industry, business or trade such as shoe making, cattle-breeding, wood-work, weaving, sewing, etc. They are, therefore, helped with loans free of interest. These loans are recovered in 20 half-yearly instalments and the first recovery starts after lapse of four years. The maximum amount which is now granted to the borrower is Rs. 10,000. During 1989, a sum of Rs. 40,000 was advanced to 20 persons of the district.

Subsidy/Loan for the purchase of Agricultural Land.—To help the deserving landless members of Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis, the scheme as it existed before 1969-70, provided a subsidy of Rs. 2,000 to an individual who in turn had to contribute the remaining amount to purchase not less than 5 acres of land costing not less than Rs. 900 per acre. A person settled in such a way was given a subsidy of Rs. 500 for the construction of a house or well on the land purchased with the help of the Government. A sum of Rs. 360 as subsidy to meet the expenses on the stamp duty for registration of such land was also provided in each case.

The subsidy oriented land purchase scheme was remodelled into a loan scheme with effect from 1969-70. Under this scheme, a provision for the loan

of Rs. 4,500 was made and the area of land to be purchased was reduced from 5 acres to 3 acres. In view of the higher price of agricultural land, the amount of loan was raised from Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 6,000 during the year 1972-73. The quantum of subsidy amount of Rs. 360 for the purchase of agricultural implements was enhanced to Rs. 500 from 1974-75. Besides, a person was helped with an amount of Rs. 500 as subsidy for digging a well. The limit of this amount was also raised to Rs. 1,000 in 1974-75.

This facility of loan/subsidy for the purchase of land by the Harijans was withdrawn in 1974-75 and under the Haryana Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972, the members of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are entitled to the allotment of the surplus area declared under the above Act.

Legal Assistance.—In order to protect the interest of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis in criminal, civil and revenue cases and to safeguard their rights against the landlords and others, the scheme of providing legal assistance to them has been in operation since 1958-59. The implementation of this scheme is under the charge of Deputy Commissioner who is assisted by the District Welfare Officer. The total number of beneficiaries under this scheme is 21.

Subsidy for the Purchase of Pigs.—This scheme was started in 1959-60. The deserving and needy members of the Scheduled Castes were given a subsidy of Rs. 800 each for the purchase of pigs. This scheme was dropped in 1979-80.

Subsidy for Construction/Repair of Chaupals.—The members of Scheduled Castes had no common place for their get-together and the celebrations of the marriages of their children. In order to remove this difficulty, the Government introduced this scheme in 1970-71. In 1989, there was a provision of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of new *Chaupal*. During 1988-89, the total amount of grants, Rs. 32,32,100 was given to 645 *chaupals* for construction/repair.

Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam Ltd.—The Nigam was established by the State Government at Chandigarh in 1971 with the sole objective of giving financial assistance to Harijans for their socio-economic uplift.

The Nigam advances loans at the moderate rate of interest for various trades/professions, such as dairy-farming, leatherwork, sheep and goats, setting up of flour mill, brick-kiln, etc. These loans are recoverable in easy instalments. Since 1973, all loans are recoverable in 10 equated half-yearly instalments, starting one year after the receipt of the loan.

A loan upto Rs. 10,000 is given to an individual and up to Rs. 50,000 to the registered partnership firms and co-operative societies comprising members of Scheduled Castes only. During the year 1982-83, tie up arrangements have been made with the banks. Under this arrangement 25% margin money is given by the Nigam and rest 75% by the banks as loan. The loans advanced by Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam to the members of Scheduled Castes in the district for various trades/professions during 1979-80 to 1988-89, are detailed below:—

Year	Agri- culture & Allied Sector	Industrial Sector	Profess- ional & Self Emp. Sector	Trade & Business Sector	Total (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1979-80	2.13	0.54	..	0.61	3.28
1980-81	1.94	0.38	..	0.98	3.30
1981-82	4.39	0.75	..	1.49	6.63
1982-83	2.17	0.03	..	0.49	2.69
1983-84	35.27	1.93	..	13.98	51.18
1984-85	35.57	1.85	9.81	8.25	55.48
1985-86	44.33	4.65	19.90	13.36	82.24
1986-87	53.64	9.45	6.62	25.93	95.64
1987-88	29.04	15.47	8.10	25.92	78.53
1988-89	22.33	5.79	4.40	24.74	57.26

Social Equality.—The Directive Principles of State policy lay down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and of the Scheduled Castes in particular, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The Fundamental Rights embodied in the Constitution enjoin abolition of untouchability and forbid its practice in any form. The enforcement of any disability arising out of 'untouchability' has been made penal by the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. To ensure equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment, it has been laid down that no

citizen shall, on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, residence, be ineligible for, or discriminated against, in respect of any employment or office under the State.

Despite these constitutional guarantees, untouchability is practised in one form or the other, especially in rural areas. A special programme for removal of untouchability is carried on through community centres and *balwadis*. These are started at places where there is large concentration of members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. During 1988-89, the community centres were running at the village Nathupur and Chirana.

PROHIBITION

Experiment in prohibition was conducted in the area of the then Rohtak district by the first Post-Independence Government of the erstwhile Punjab during 1948. But it could not meet with success. Unfortunately, alcoholic consumption, instead of going down, increased. There were two such major sources. First, liquor was transported from the neighbouring wet districts of the State; as also from adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi. The trade in liquor from this source was carried on by the licence holders of the neighbouring districts who transported wine from the distilleries to their vends and shops situated within a radius of 8 kilometres of the boundaries of the district. Secondly, illicit distillation supply was made by the bootleggers who carried on their nefarious trade in the villages to which approach roads were not available.

The experiment thus created an ugly law and order problem. The State Government lost excise revenue on one hand and had to spend huge amounts on enforcement of the prohibition programme on the other. The State then faced with limited financial resources, could hardly afford luxury and so the policy of prohibition was scrapped from April 1, 1976.

A programme of partial prohibition of observing two dry days, i.e. Monday and Tuesday in a week besides other closed days i.e. Independence Day-15th August, Acharya Vinoba Bhave's birth-day-11th September, and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday-2nd October, was introduced on April 1, 1969. 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 results. It also encouraged illicit distillation. The licence-holders sometimes indulged in malpractice of selling on prohibited days. The whole situation was revived again and from April, 1, 1970, it was decided to enforce the policy of observing three closed days in a year. However, since April 1, 1973, every 7th day of the month is also observed as a closed day. T

been done as a check for labour class against purchasing liquor on the day when they get their pay packets. Further, no liquor shop is 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 individual possession introduced on April, 1969, is allowed to continue.

The consumption of exciseable articles in the district during 1978-79 to 1988-89 was as follows:—

Year	Country liquor (Proof litres)	Foreign liquor (Proof litres)	Wine and Beer (Bulk Litres)
1978-79	1,98,683	85,561	1,63,998
1979-80	2,36,000	34,493	89,247
1980-81	3,39,838	1,28,919	2,61,253
1981-82	4,04,265	2,58,879	2,59,385
1982-83	4,61,750	2,41,056	3,91,095
1983-84	5,23,000	7,47,817	5,32,527
1984-85	6,10,000	7,81,137	5,50,000
1985-86	6,97,500	10,07,072	11,02,531
1986-87	6,75,000	10,43,552	10,03,472
1987-88	8,25,000	8,96,252	6,80,490
1988-89	9,49,000	9,04,508	8,01,186

The oral consumption of opium for the general public was prohibited on April 1, 1959. The opium is only allowed to the registered addicts. There was no sale of bhang after April 1, 1965, due to total prohibition of its oral consumption.