

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The chapter deals with miscellaneous occupations which do not fall in major categories, viz agriculture, industry, transport, communication, etc. These occupations cover a wide range of public and private services and constitute a significant part of daily life. The occupations in the district are similar to occupations in other parts of the State. The occupations, here described include Government service, defence services services in private sector and self employed persons.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Employment in Government service is highly valued for its prestige, security of service and housing facilities. The pay is also comparable to other sectors and dearness allowance has been linked with costs of living. Government housing is a substantial facility for Government servants. Besides, Government servants are given free medical facilities for indoor treatment and for outdoor treatment fixed medical allowance of Rs. 30 per month is given, while public sector employees are given medical allowance or reimbursement. To provide for retirement, the Government servants contribute to general provident fund while public sector employees have contributory provident fund. The employees are also given gratuity on retirement, based on length of service. Government servants are given pension, while public sector employees are given matching contribution to their contributory provident fund. Loans are also offered for purchase of vehicle, plot and construction of house. In addition, class IV employees are provided with liveries, conveyance allowance, washing allowance and loan for purchase of wheat. Employees not provided with accommodation are given house rent allowance. Public sector employees are also granted bonus.

The number of employees in Government service, public sector and local bodies increased tremendously since the formation of Haryana. In March, 1976, the district had 8,273 Government servants, 1,658 employees in public sector and 633 employees in local bodies. The total number of the employees in public services in March 1976 came to 10,564. By March 31, 1989, the number of employees in public services increased to 16,390 which indicated an increase of 55 per cent. Of these 226 were Central Government employees, 11,744 State Government employees, 1,129 Central Public Sector employees, 2,571 State Public Sector employees and 720 employed in local bodies. The number of female employees also increased considerably and in March, 1989, they formed 19 per cent of State Government employees.

DEFENCE SERVICES

The district contributed a large number of soldiers to the army during the First and Second World Wars. It continues to be a recruiting ground for the armed forces and this is evident from the number of ex-servicemen. In March, 1989, the number of ex-servicemen in the district was 13,625 and the number of war widows was 1,397. The district is proud of Lt. Col. Hoshiar Singh, who was awarded the nation's highest gallantry award, the Param Vir Chakra, in 1971 Indo-Pakistan War.

The soldiers and officers of the district covered themselves with glory during the Kashmir Operation of 1948, Chinese Aggression of 1962 and the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971. The roll of honour of soldiers decorated for bravery is given below :—

Serial No.	Recipient	Gallantry Award	Year when Granted
1.	Jam. Thambu Ram	Vir Chakra	1948
2.	Sep. Jaipal	Vir Chakra	1948
3.	Sep. Mange Ram	Vir Chakra	1948
4.	NK. Munshi Ram	Vir Chakra	1962
5.	Sp. Dharampal Singh	Vir Chakra	1962
6.	Maj. R.K. Bali	Vir Chakra	1965
7.	Sqn. Ldr. S.S. Malik	Vir Chakra	1965
8.	Maj. Satparkash Verma	Vir Chakra	1965
9.	Sqn. Ldr. R.S. Bedi	Vir Chakra	1965
10.	Maj. Sunehra Singh	Vir Chakra	1971
11.	Flt. Lt. P.S. Kalra	Vir Chakra	1971
12.	Flt. Lt. J.S. Gahlawat	Vir Chakra	1971
13.	Lt. Cdr. Inder Singh	Vir Chakra	1971

1	2	3	4
14.	Lt. Col. Hoshiar Singh	.. Param Vir Chakra	1971
15.	Maj. B.S. Malik	.. Sena Medal	1982
15.	Maj. Chhotu Ram	... Do	1983
17.	Sqr. Ldr. S.C. Gaur	.. Suray Chakra	1984
18.	Maj. M.S. Dahiya	.. Surya Chakra	1985
19.	NK. Satbir Singh	.. Sena Medal	1986

In addition to *ex-gratia* grant and pension, several other concessions to the Armed Forces personnel and their families are granted by the State Government. The concessions include rewards in the form of cash and annuity to winners of gallantry awards.

The cash rewards and annuity given to the winners of the Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra and Vir Chakra are detailed below :—

Decoration	Reward
(i) Param Vir Chakra	.. (a) Cash Rs. 22,500 (b) Annuity: Rs. 1,000 for 30 years. The annuity is given for the life of the serviceman or for the life of his wife/widow (if the decoration is earned posthumously or if the recipient dies before his wife) or for 30 years, whichever is shorter.
(ii) Maha Vir Chakra	.. (a) Cash : Rs. 15,000 (b) Annuity : Rs. 400 for 30 years. The annuity is given for the life of the serviceman or for the life of his wife/widow (if the decoration is earned posthumously or if the recipient dies before his wife) or for 30 years, whichever is shorter.
(iii) Vir Chakra	.. (a) Cash : Rs. 7,000 (b) Annuity : Rs. 300 for 30 years. The annuity is given for the life of his wife/widow (if the decoration is earned posthumously or if the recipient dies before his wife) or for 30 years, whichever is shorter.

The winners of Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and Sena/Vayu Sena/Nav Sena Medal are given cash reward of Rs. 12,000, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 3,000, respectively without any annuity. It has also been decided to give a cash reward of Rs. 2,000 to the recipient of Mention-in-Despatches without any annuity.

The awardees of Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous) of Chinese Aggression 1962, Indo-Pak Conflicts of 1965 and 1971 are given monetary grants of Rs. 22,500 whereas winners of Maha Vir Chakra Rs. 15,000 for the purchase of agricultural land or urban property.

These benefits are in addition to any *ex-gratia* grant/pension that may be admissible otherwise. In the case of more than one gallantry decorations, the awardee is entitled to full cash rewards for each decoration separately. In the case of posthumous decoration the rewards/annuities are given as under :

- (i) Fifty per cent is given to the widow/dependent children with immediate effect.
- (ii) Fifty per cent is given to the per parents provided they were dependent on the recipient of the decoration. Otherwise the the whole annuity is given to the widow/dependent children.
- (iii) Where widow/dependent children and dependent parents do not exist, the payment of cash rewards and annuity are made to the dependent brother(s) and sister(s) provided they were residing with the deceased during his life time and in the case of females, annuity is to be paid till her/ their marriages.
- (iv) Where the deceased is survived by his dependent parents only, then parents are given 100 per cent of such grant, etc.

The Post War Services Reconstruction Fund (raised during World War II) and Special Fund to Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of ex-servicemen (raised in 1964) were created by Government of India for the welfare of ex-serviceman. A brief history and scope of these funds is as under :—

Post War Service Reconstruction Fund.—This fund was raised during World War II for the benefit of ex-servicemen below the rank of Non-Commissioned Officers and their dependents. The money from this fund was to be used for collective benefit and those who had served in the rank of non-combatants in the Defence Services during World War II or thereafter. The fund is being mainly utilised for :

1. Grant of stipends to the sons/wards of beneficiary ex-servicemen ;
2. Medical relief to T.B. and Leprosy patients ;
3. Construction and maintenance of sainik rest houses ;

4. Purchase of sewing machines for widows/wives of beneficiaries and disabled ex-servicemen (in extremely deserving cases) ;
5. Maintenance charges of ex-servicemen trainees in the Queen Mary's Technical School for disabled Indian Soldiers, Kirkee, Pune.
6. Maintenance of information rooms attached with Zila Sainik Board; and
7. Grant of re-union of ex-servicemen.

Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-Servicemen.—

This fund was created in 1964. The nucleus of the fund consists of contributions from the Government of India from the Defence Budget and Defence Fund and matching grants made by the State Government. The objects of the fund are :—

1. to award stipends to ex-servicemen for technical, managerial, vocational or agricultural training at a recognised training institution;
2. to sanction grants or loans to co-operative societies or other associations of ex-servicemen for schemes and projects of resettlement that is to say horticulture, animal husbandry, industry, transport, and the like;
3. to sanction scholarships or grants to dependents of ex-servicemen for higher studies in India beyond high school or higher secondary stage in technical, vocational or agricultural education;
4. to sanction expenditure on special measures of a collective nature for the maintenance of old and destitute ex-servicemen or widows of ex-servicemen;
5. to grant loans to individual ex-servicemen for starting industries or business undertakings; and
6. to do all other things to promote measures for the benefits of ex-servicemen and their dependents.

The income from the above funds is mainly utilised for grant of stipends to ex-servicemen/dependents and grant of loan to ex-servicemen for their rehabilitation. Ever since the operation of the Special Fund in the State, an attempt has been made to make a clear-cut demarcation in regard to the benefits to be given to ex-servicemen/their dependents from Special Fund and Post War Service Reconstruction Fund in order to avoid over-lapping and duplication. Stipends to ex-servicemen/their dependents eligible under the

Special Fund Scheme are being given only from the Special Fund. Thus applications of dependents with academic qualifications of Matric/Higher Secondary for technical, vocational or agricultural education are considered under this Fund. Applications of under-Matric dependents studying in industrial training institute and all dependents for general education are considered under the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund. The Zila Sainik Board, Sonipat looks after the welfare of serving and released/retired defence personnel. The total number of beneficiaries under Post War Services Reconstruction Fund was 249 as on March 31, 1989.

Services in Private Sector

With the growth of communication and economy, employment opportunities have increased tremendously in the private sector. Industrialisation and urbanisation has opened new jobs for thousands of people. Private sector include organised private industry and commercial establishments, shops and hotels. The private sector absorbs a large number of employees. However, the employees in large industries are well-paid and given other perks. Others are provided adequate protection under various labour laws, while the trade unions have also been organised to protect the rights of industrial workers. Sonipat district has a few large and medium industries. However, the small scale industrial units absorb the bulk of workers.

During 1988-89, the private organised sector (industries) absorbed 17,890 employees. Of these 15,678 were under the Act.

The commercial establishments, shops and hotels/restaurants in towns employ assistants, salesmen, cooks and helpers. These workers are not well organised and their working conditions and wages are protected by the Government, under the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.

In March, 1989 the district had 8,209 shops with 1,880 employees, while the number of commercial establishments was 66 with 388 employees. Hotels and restaurants have new job avenues for the people as their work makes them travel to far off places and stay in hotels and eat in restaurants. Tourism has also added to the growth of hotels and habit of eating at restaurants. In March, 1989, the district had 107 hotels/restaurants with 298 employees in the towns. The hotels offer facilities for stay and meals.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Personal services include barbers, washermen and tailors. In urban areas the old practice of family barber has come to an end. The towns have exclusive hair dressing saloons and beauty parlours, as women have also begun cutting their hair short. Barbers also sit in the open to cater to the need

of lower income people. The number of hair dressing saloons, beauty parlours according to 1981 Census was 2,018. In rural areas some barbers continue the old tradition of family barbers. However, many barbers have also set-up hair cutting shops in rural areas. Hair cutting charges vary from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7.

Washermen and *dhobis* are losing their business to dry cleaners as most people now prefer to wash clothes in the house and get them ironed by the *dhobis*. Warm clothes are got drycleaned. With the result that *dhobis* have set-up street corner stalls for ironing of clothes. The number of washermen, including dry cleaners, dyers and *dhobis* was 1,058 according to 1981 Census.

Tailoring shops are very common in the towns, as the population has increased considerably and their demand for new clothes has also increased. Fashions have continuously changed and people in town like to wear new fashionable clothes. Some large tailoring shops in towns employ ten or more tailors for stitching. They are either paid a monthly salary on job basis. Master tailors usually take measurements and do cutting. The practice of family tailors has almost vanished. In rural areas too tailors charge money for stitching clothes. Tailoring charges vary from shop to shop, depending on the skill of tailors. In rural areas the charges are slightly less than the urban areas. However, the stitching charges have increased considerably over the years. In 1966, a shirt was stitched for Rs. 2, while a woollen suit was stitched for Rs. 55. In 1983, the stitching charges for a shirt was Rs. 25 while a woollen suit was stitched for Rs. 250. In 1989, the stitching charges for a shirt and woollen suit were Rs. 25 and Rs. 500 respectively.

Educational personnel, medical personnel, legal personnel and engineering personnel have been covered in other chapters.

SELF—EMPLOYED PERSONS

Self employed persons include all those who work independently or sell their individual services. These include *Julahas* (weavers), *mochis* (shoemakers), sweepers, potters, stone-dressers, pedlars, hawkers and jugglers. Besides, new occupations have come up with the changing times such as repairs and motor mechanics. The habit of tea drinking has helped to open tea stalls in urban areas and at bus stops in rural areas. These tea stalls are not registered and hence do not come under persons employed in hotels/restaurants. Persons employed in shops (registered) are not included under the head of self employed persons, i.e. motor workshops, sweatmeat shops, cigarette shops, grocery shops, vegetable/fruit shops, jewellery shops and bakeries. However, self employed persons include *halwai* shops, cigarette sellers, grocery and vegetable/fruit shops in rural areas. These are mostly located at the bus stop of the village. It also includes goldsmiths in rural areas.

The *julahas*, potters and sweepers are spread through out the district. They still make their living through agricultural activities in rural areas. Most of them offer their customary services during marriages and other ceremonies. The *mochis* who function as cobblers usually sit at street corners repairing shoes or roam in the streets in search of customers. A few cobblers also make shoes and have set-up small shops. The potters make earthen vessels for cooling water or for storing grain or milk/butter in rural areas. The sweepers still follow their traditional professions.

Pedlars and hawkers go about hawking their goods in the towns and villages. They sell articles of daily use, vegetables, fruits, eatables, peanuts, *chana*, general merchandise, crockery and toys. They are more common in town than in village. In towns *chaat* and *chole-bhatura* are popular and *chaat* hawkers are very common.

Jugglers as in other parts of the country, earn their living by showing feats of jugglery and other tricks. In towns the *banderwala* and *richwala* are more common. The snake-charmer in his saffron clothes with two baskets of snakes is also common. Many people worship snakes and so readily give offerings. Besides, there are quacks, who are usually found sitting with their medicine bottles on the roadside. They charm the credulous people by their talk and succeed in extracting money. They also act as soothsayers and read the palms for a consideration. The superstitious people visit the fortune-tellers to know about their future. They are spread throughout the district, but are more common in towns.

Roadside, cycle repair shops are in large number throughout the district. They carry out repair work. The auto-mechanics for scooters, cars, tractors and jeeps are, however, confined to towns. There are many persons who are expert in the repair work of cars and tractors.

Many people are self employed in shops in rural areas. These shops do not come under the Shops Act, 1958 and these are described under self-employed persons. They sell grocery, vegetable, fruit, soap, oil, toilet articles, shoe polish, etc. They usually open the shop in their house. Some stalls are centred at the village bus stop. These include the tea stalls, cigarette sellers, *paan* shop, fruit/vegetable shop and occasionally a *halwai* shop. Many persons sit in the street selling cigarettes, peanuts, etc.

Goldsmiths are spread throughout the district. The jewellery shops in towns are registered and come under the Shop Act, 1958. However, many goldsmiths in towns as well as in rural areas make various types of ornaments and are so classed under self employed persons. This business gets a boost during the season of marriages.

In towns many people are engaged in keeping cows and buffaloes for selling milk.

DOMESTIC SERVICES

The domestic services include cooks, servants/ maid servants and part time helpers for household jobs. Servants, mainly young boys from the hills are employed by the rich people in towns. Some are engaged as cooks while the others are employed for cleaning of utensils, washing clothes and other domestic work. However, servants are not easily available and the few who work at homes come from outside the state. The servants are paid Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month besides food, clothing and lodging. A few families in towns employ local part time helpers, usually maid servants, for cleaning of utensils and sweeping the houses and some persons also engage them for washing clothes. They are paid Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 per month. In towns the Panjabi refugees usually work as part time helpers. Students not living in hostels employ them for cleaning of utensils and cooking. Most women usually do their own washing as washing machines, which are common in town, have made their job easy. In rural areas women do their own domestic chores.

Today religion has become a full time occupation and is the main source of income. The professional Brahmins conduct worship and perform rites in accordance with religious scriptures and recognised practices in the temple. They also conduct some religious ceremony on demand particularly at the time of marriage, birth, etc.

The proximity of Sonipat with Delhi has made it a potential source of income. There are many who supply milk and other things of daily use. Many persons of Sonipat area are engaged in the supply of flowers to the florist shops in Delhi. By this profession they make a very good living.

The other categories of persons who make the sale of their balms and other medicines in the trains from Dehli to Sonipat.