

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Prior to Independence (1947), the people were entirely dependent on land or subsidiary profession of animal husbandry. The land was not fertile and was hardly able to provide livelihood to the people. Sheep and goats were reared by a large section of population. The artisans like carpenter, potter, blacksmith, weaver, dyer and tailor existed almost in all villages. The trade which was limited to local area was not much gainful and many traders left for other places for business. Besides, poor and landless people also left for other places during harvesting season and collected grain for their labour and returned to their original places. Compelled by these worst economic conditions, the young men had to join the army during World War I and World War II.

The livelihood pattern did not undergo a change till 1947. During the post-Independence period, the material condition of the people improved somewhat, but the encouraging results on economic front and vast expansion of means of living were visible after the formation of Haryana.

Of the total population (7,34,143), there were 1,69,174 (1,63,403 male workers and 5,771 female workers) workers as per Census of 1971. The non-working population stood at 5,64,969 (2,19,794 males and 3,45,175 females). The ratio of workers to non-workers was 23:77. The tahsilwise details of workers and non-workers are given in the table below :—

	Workers			Non-workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Narnaul	56,769	1,441	58,210	70,468	1,14,283	1,84,751
Mahendragarh	35,250	1,381	36,631	46,298	73,081	1,19,379
Rewari ¹	71,384	2,949	74,333	1,03,028	1,57,811	2,60,839
Total :	1,63,403	5,771	1,69,174	2,19,794	3,45,175	5,64,969

On the basis of economic activities pursued, the working population was classified into eight categories as per 1971 Census and the detailed classification

1. Bawal tahsil was a part of Rewari tahsil at the time of 1971 Census

is given in the following table :—

Industrial Category	Number of workers			Percentage to total number of workers
	Males	Females	Total	
1. As cultivators	92,321	2,310	94,631	55.94
2. As agricultural labourers	17,007	1,758	18,765	11.09
3. In mining, quarrying livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards and allied activities	1,527	36	1,563	0.92
4. In manufacturing processing servicing and repairs :				
A. (in household industry)	7,837	259	8,096	4.79
B. In other than household industry	4,824	127	4,951	2.93
5. In construction	2,054	36	2,090	1.24
6. In trade and commerce	9,833	72	9,905	5.85
7. In transport, storage and communication	4,819	12	4,831	2.85
8. In other services	23,181	1,161	24,342	14.39
Total :	1,63,403	5,771	1,69,174	100.00

The analysis of the table shows that 67.03 per cent of the total working population (cultivators 55.94 per cent and agricultural labourers 11.09 per cent) engaged in agricultural pursuits, 5.85 per cent in trade and commerce, 4.79 per cent in household industry and 14.39 per cent in other services. It may be particularly noted that this district had a large number of army personnel. The number of workers engaged in other vocations was small.

PRICES AND WAGES

Prices

The World War II created scarcity conditions in respects of many articles of need. After Independence, due to dislocation of working force, the economic activity suffered and there was a price rise. Price control was imposed by the government to stabilize the general price level. As a result of the First Five-Year Plan (1951-52 to 1955-56) agricultural production

increased considerably and prices of foodgrains fell in 1953-54. The price control on foodgrains was lifted but the upward trend in prices started again immediately thereafter. Harvest failure and various inflationary factors gave rise to prices during the Second Five-Year Plan. In the Third Five-Year Plan period (1961-62 to 1965-66), the prices of wheat, barley, rice, bajra, maize, gur, tobacco, etc. increased almost about hundred per cent.

During the Fourth-Five Year Plan (1969-70 to 1973-74), the wholesale prices registered an unprecedented upward trend. In Mahendragarh district, the price of wheat was Rs. 43, Rs. 120 and Rs. 200 per quintal in 1960, 1966 and 1974 respectively. Similar upward trend in the price of gram has also been observed during the last 15 years.

The average wholesale prices in certain selected *mandis* of the Mahendragarh district are discussed below to bring out fluctuations in prices in different parts of the district at a certain point of time :—

Narnaul Mandi

The market at Narnaul, being situated on a railway line and surrounded by Rajasthan, is a big marketing centre of the district. The following table shows the average wholesale harvest prices of various agricultural commodities in this *mandi* during 1963 to 1977 :—

Year	Name of Commodities							(Rs. per quintal)
	Wheat	Gram	Barley	Bajra	Gur	Cotton Desi	Sarson	
1963	41.53	43.54	33.49	34.83	77.75	45.55	90.50	
1966	119.00	93.00	76.00	76.00	83.00	84.00	163.00	
1970	80.00	84.00	47.00	54.00	65.00	83.00	235.00	
1973	115.00	200.00	120.00	89.00	160.00	170.00	390.00	
1974	205.00	222.00	143.00	191.00	150.00	210.00	285.00	
1975	125.00	184.00	70.00	82.00	130.00	130.00	204.00	
1976	120.00	122.00	83.00	92.00	135.00	170.00	390.00	
1977	131.00	171.00	106.00	121.00	159.00	221.00	420.00	

It shows that the prices of cereals continuously rose from 1963 to 1976 except in 1970 when there was bumper crop. The price of wheat

rose from Rs. 41.53 per quintal in 1963 to Rs. 115 in 1973 whereas it rose to Rs. 205 in 1974, being the highest price in the district up till 1977. In 1974, there was a steep rise in prices of all the foodgrains in the district. The prices of gram, barley and *bajra* were quoted at Rs. 222, Rs. 143 and Rs. 191 per quintal in 1974. The price of *sarson*, an important oil seed, showed a steady rise from Rs. 90.50 in 1963 to Rs. 285 per quintal in 1974, a significant decline to Rs. 204 in 1975 and again a steep rise to Rs. 420 in 1977.

The relative prices of commodities in other important *mandis* of the district are shown below :—

Mahendragarh Mandi

Year	Name of Commodities							(Rs. per quin g1)
	Wheat	Gram	Barley	Bajra	Gur	Cotton Desi	Sarson	
1963	43.00	44.00	33.50	40.00	79.00	47.00	82.00	
1966	120.00	98.00	79.15	73.25	82.55	108.00	160.00	
1970	90.00	82.00	49.00	52.00	65.00	120.00	186.00	
1973	110.00	200.00	110.00	71.00	175.00	165.00	350.00	
1974	200.00	228.00	130.00	195.00	140.00	209.00	252.00	
1975	135.00	180.00	70.00	85.00	130.00	185.00	178.00	
1976	131.00	116.00	86.00	86.00	140.00	190.00	350.00	
1977	126.00	168.00	99.00	115.00	137.00	211.00	352.00	

Ateli Mandi

Year	Name of Commodities							(Rs. per quintal)
	Wheat	Gram	Barley	Bajra	Gur	Cotton	Sarson	
1963	50.00	44.20	32.00	38.10	83.10	45.50	51.50	
1966	120.00	85.00	74.90	71.00	88.00	96.00	164.00	
1970	80.00	83.00	45.00	51.00	100.00	135.00	184.00	
1973	110.00	203.00	113.00	89.00	145.00	180.00	365.00	
1974	200.00	224.00	135.00	180.00	200.00	225.00	251.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1975	130.00	180.00	73.00	76.00	132.00	155.00	179.00
1976	135.00	125.00	85.00	96.00	135.00	200.00	350.00
1977	120.50	172.00	109.00	121.50	140.50	209.00	384.00
Kanina Mandi							
1963	45.00	41.30	33.00	37.00	80.00	58.00	88.00
1966	120.00	90.00	80.00	76.00	78.00	100.00	162.00
1970	171.00	82.00	41.00	50.00	73.00	112.00	176.00
1973	104.00	200.00	117.00	89.00	140.00	185.00	320.00
1974	195.00	226.00	125.00	200.00	160.00	225.00	208.00
1975	135.00	175.00	70.00	75.00	130.00	170.00	180.00
1976	105.00	124.00	85.00	90.00	150.00	210.00	345.00
1977	124.50	170.00	106.00	101.00	147.00	231.00	362.00
Rewari Mandi¹							
1973	105.00	202.00	126.00	88.00	160.00	155.00	350.00
1974	200.00	232.00	143.00	193.00	160.00	215.00	285.00
1975	135.00	180.00	72.00	85.00	140.00	150.00	208.00
1976	133.00	124.00	90.00	85.00	125.00	192.00	328.00
1977	137.00	171.00	117.00	116.00	124.00	197.00	402.00

In four other *mandis* of the district, viz. Mahendragarh, Ateli, Kanina and Rewari, there was a steep rise in average wholesale prices of almost all agricultural commodities in 1974. However, in Mahendragarh *mandi* the price of *gur* declined from Rs. 175 per quintal in 1973 to Rs. 140 in 1974. In the same *mandi* the price of gram slightly increased from Rs. 200 per quintal in 1973 to Rs. 228 in 1974. Similarly in Kanina *mandi*, the price of *sarson*

1. Rewari town was included in the district by the end of 1972. Therefore, the prices have been shown from 1973 onwards. Since the *mandi* of Rewari, Ateli and Narnaul are situated on the same railway line from Rewari to Ajmer, there was a little change in prices.

declined from Rs. 320 per quintal in 1973 to Rs. 208 in 1974. In Rewari *mandi*, the price of *sarson* also declined from Rs. 350 per quintal in 1973 to Rs. 285 in 1974. The average wholesale prices of most of the agricultural commodities started declining in all the above *mandis* in the year 1975. However, the price of *sarson* started rising from the year 1976.

The retail prices of foodgrains prevailing at Narnaul, from 1970 to 1977, are shown in the following table :—

Commodity	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	(Rs. per kilogram)		
						1975	1976	1977
Wheat	0.90	0.90	1.03	1.15	2.20	1.40	1.30	1.38
Gram	1.25	1.00	1.35	2.10	2.45	1.90	1.20	1.80
Barley	0.90	0.55	1.00	1.10	1.60	0.85	1.20	1.19
<i>Bajra</i>	0.60	0.60	0.90	0.95	2.00	0.95	0.95	1.28
Rice	1.25	1.25	1.45	2.00	2.80	2.10	2.20	1.81
<i>Gur</i>	1.80	1.50	1.90	1.80	2.10	1.60	2.00	1.78
Milk	1.75	1.20	1.20	1.65	2.20	2.00	2.00	2.29
Ghee	13.50	13.00	13.25	19.50	22.50	22.00	23.50	24.57
Mustard Oil	10.00	5.00	5.60	9.00	11.00	5.25	8.25	10.14
Kerosene (per litre)	0.67	0.70	0.75	0.93	1.20	1.39	1.37	1.37

It is observed that the average retail prices like wholesale prices did not rise much up to 1973, but the rise was steep in 1974. As indicated in the above table, the price of one kilogram wheat was 90 paise in 1970 but rocketed to Rs. 2.20 in 1974. In 1977, its price was Rs. 1.38 per kilogram. The prices of all the commodities rose considerably in 1974. There has been much fluctuation in the prices of mustard oil. It reduced to half in 1971 as compared to 1970. Afterwards, it started rising and reached a climax of Rs. 11 per kilogram in 1974. Its price in 1977 was quoted at Rs. 10.14 per kilogram. Kerosene oil was quoted at Rs. 0.67 per litre in 1970 and its price almost doubled in a short period of six years.

Rewari is the only big industrial town in the district where consumer price index of working class was prepared. Consumer price index of working class for food and general articles from 1956-57 to 1966-67 whereafter it was discontinued, is shown below for Rewari town :—

(Base 1950-51=100)

Year	Food	General	Increase/decrease in prices over pre- vious year- percentage
1956-57	104	104	..
1957-58	107	167	60.57
1958-59	120	119	(—)28.74
1959-60	124	123	3.36
1960-61	126	125	1.63
1961-62	129	130	4.00
1962-63	127	132	1.54
1963-64	134	138	4.55
1964-65	160	155	12.32
1965-66	167	185	6.45
1966-67	214	199	20.61

The above table indicates that the price level during 1957-58 was more or less the same in respect of food articles but it rose to 63 per cent in other items, which is quite considerable. The prices of food articles continued to increase steadily from 1956-57 to 1966-67 and rose to 114 per cent during this period. The price increase during 1964-65 and 1966-67 was quite significant.

Price index in respect of general articles has also been very much fluctuating. The general price level rose continuously till 1966-67. In 1958-59, the rise was 19 per cent of the base year but it was not so sharp during 1959-60 to 1963-64. In 1964-65, it rose by 12 per cent over the previous year and by 6.45 per cent in 1965-66 over 1964-65. The price rise was, however, tremendous in 1966-67 when in a single year it rose by 20.61 per cent. Beating the previous 10-year record during the period of 16 years from 1950-51 to 1966-67, the price level rose by 99 per cent in Rewari.

This state of affairs was not, however, peculiar to Rewari alone. During the same period, in other parts of the State, the prices increased by 99 per cent in Bhiwani, 81 per cent in Panipat and 94 percent in Ambala Cantt.

In the year 1957-58, price index rose to 167. In 1958-59 it came to 119 and started rising steadily till 1966-67 when it rose to 199.

Wages

In olden times when means of communications were not properly developed and movement either of commodities or wage-earners was restricted. Production of foodgrains and other commodities used to have substantial effect on the rates of wages in a particular region. With the development of roads and means of communication, the conditions changed after Independence throughout the country as a whole.

Wages paid to workers are classified into three broad categories, i.e. monthly wages, wages paid to the casual workers and daily wages. Wages may vary from person to person and for different type of work for the same person. It is difficult to give precisely the wages prevailing in the past in the district. In 1977-78, the wage rate for a whole-time worker ranged from Rs. 160 to Rs. 250 p.m., for a part-time worker from Rs. 90 to Rs. 150 and for a daily worker it ranged from Rs. 6 per day to Rs. 15 per day depending upon the type of work.

In general, the wages for agricultural labourers are determined by the practice prevalent in the area and mutual understanding of the labourers and landlords. It is also regulated, though to a small extent, by the forces of demand and supply due to their immobile character. Some labourers may be hired for less wages at the time of lean working season and for higher wages during the harvesting season. The wages for various occupations are paid in cash or in kind or in both. In addition to the cash payment, meals, *bidi* and tea are also provided to casual labourers. At the time of ploughing, harvesting, weeding, etc., the normal working hours are extended from sunrise to sunset with about an hour's rest. The skilled labourers like carpenters, masons and blacksmiths are employed on daily wages and are paid higher amount than unskilled labourers. Rates for some of the major agricultural operations are given below :—

Year	(For men only)				
	Ploughing	Sowing	Weeding	Harvesting	Other agriculture operations
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1973	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
1974	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.07	5.00
1975	6.22	6.00	5.07	6.33	5.91
1976	6.22	6.22	5.67	6.33	5.91
1977	6.40	6.40	6.00	6.40	6.00

The wages for the skilled workers such as blacksmiths, carpenters, cobblers and other agricultural labourers are detailed below :—

	Blacksmith	Carpenter	Agricultural labourers	Other agriculture operations
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
July, 1977	—	11.50	6.50	6.00
August, 1977	—	11.50	8.00	10.50
September, 1977	15.00	15.00	7.00	10.50
October, 1977	7.50	6.00	6.50	6.00
November, 1977	—	18.00	6.75	7.00
December, 1977	—	11.50	7.50	6.00
January, 1978	—	11.50	6.75	6.00
February, 1978	10.00	11.50	7.25	7.25
March, 1978	17.00	18.00	7.25	7.25

Employment Situation

As already discussed that the Mahendragarh district is predominantly an agriculture area. The agricultural sector provides employment to a large number of people. But the educated youths seek employment assistance from employment exchanges.

The District Employment Exchange was started at Narnaul in 1956. A sub-office was opened at Rewari in 1961 and it was upgraded as District Employment Exchange on 1st May, 1971. In December, 1969, a rural employment exchange was opened at Mahendragarh. In August, 1974, another rural employment exchange was started at Jatusana. Now, two separate District Employment Exchanges one at Rewari and second at Narnaul and two rural employment exchanges at Mahendragarh and Jatusana are functioning in this district.

The following table shows working of the employment exchanges

in Mahendragarh district during 1974 to 1977 :—

Year	Number of Employment Exchanges	Number of Registrations	Number of Vacancies Notified	Number of Applicants Placed in Employment During the year	Applicants on the live Register	Monthly Number of Employers Using the Exchange
1974	4	14,578	3,255	2,396	9,226	23
1975	4	10,960	2,208	1,523	14,444	27
1976	4	12,970	2,946	2,423	15,485	37
1977	4	12,693	3,748	2,577	15,218	60

The above table shows an increase in the number of job seekers in the live register. The number of such persons in 1974 was 9,226 and it rose to 15,218 by the end of 1977.

The following table shows the number of un-employed persons alongwith their educational level from 1973 to 1977 :

Unemployed persons	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Post graduates	—	192	211	176	218
Graduates (Commerce)	32	30	38	27	65
Graduates (Science)	143	116	116	59	79
Graduates (Arts)	502	1,260	1,340	707	1,068
Matriculates and non-graduates	3,377	7,034	6,257	5,959	7,471
Middle	1,132	2,232	2,362	2,396	3,839
Literate and others	1,201	2,149	1,994	5,271	5,675
Other un-employed persons	241	171	130	764	864
Total :	11,628	13,134	12,448	15,353	19,279

The above table shows unemployed (in experienced) educated persons on the registration of the employment exchanges. Every year the number of fresh job seekers increases enormously. The persons with training and other experience do not form large proportion. They are

called for the developing industries in the district. One thing is, however, quite clear that the unemployment among the educated persons is becoming a complex problem.

The occupational classification of unemployed persons registered in the employment exchanges, from 1973 to 1977, is given in the following table :—

Category	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Professional technical and related workers	1,065	1,318	1,259	1,404	1,180
Administrative, Executive and Managerial clerical and related workers	7	8	8	1	2
Clerical and related workers	129	1,519	1,002	560	522
Farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers	23	37	46	44	110
Persons related with transport and communication	927	953	933	929	970
Craftsmen, Production process, workers and labourers not elsewhere classified	705	785	748	11,918	12,349
Service, sport and recreation workers	305	5,524	5,214	497	506

As a part of the programme of collection of employment market information quarterly, employment returns are obtained from establishments in the public sector and from employers employing 10 or more persons in the private sector. These returns contain inter-alia information regarding vacancies which remain unfilled at the end of the quarter due to non-availability of suitable applicants. At the same time it provides the information

about the strength of the establishment. At present (March 31, 1978) there are 253 public and 60 private sector establishments on the record of employment exchanges in the district.

There is a Vocational Guidance Unit at Narnaul, which was started on March 14, 1964, where career pamphlets, books and other useful information are provided for the benefit of youth and adults. Individual/group talks are given to students and applicants by the Employment Counsellor. Career talks are given by the Vocational Guidance Counsellor to students in schools to guide them about better career and job opportunities. Individual and group counselling work is also carried out in the employment exchanges.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When a new experiment was launched in the then Gurgaon district, Rewari tahsil was covered under this scheme in 1920. The objects of the experiment were "to jerk the villager out of his old grooves, convince him that improvement is possible, and kill his fatalism by demonstrating that both climate, disease and pest can be successfully fought", "to laugh him out of his uneconomic and unhealthy customs", and to teach him better ways of living and farming".

After the attainment of Independence in 1947, the central purpose behind all the efforts the nation has been making, as manifested in the Five-Year Plans, is to raise the standard of living and ensure better conditions of living for all sections of society.

The community development programme was introduced in the district in 1955 with a view to enlisting popular participation in the implementation of the development programmes in the blocks. It is an unique and scientific endeavour for an integrated approach to the problems and rural development, based on public participation and working through representative institutions of the people. The programme mainly lays emphasis on agriculture which is the mainstay of the people; but other aspects of life, namely; health, sanitation, housing, education, recreation, rural arts and crafts, etc. also occupy an important place in this programme.

The pattern pertaining to the developmental programmes was slightly changed after the recommendations of the Balwant Ray Mehta Committee appointed by the Planning Commission during 1956-57.

Since then, a block has been recognised as a unit of planning and development. It has to undergo a pre-extension phase of one year during which work is confined to preliminary surveys, planning and agricultural development. The blocks pass into the Stage-II after completing the Stage I. After completing two stages, a block enters the Post Stage II period.

In 1962, the following Community Project and National Extension Service Blocks were :—

Tahsil	Block
Mahendragarh	Mahendragarh-I
	Mahendragarh-II
Narnaul	Narnaul-I
	Narnaul-II
	Nangal Chaudhry

After the re-organisation of the districts (Gurgaon and Mahendragarh) in December, 1972, Rewari, Bawal and Khole blocks of Rewari tahsil were transferred to Mahendragarh district. The above 3 blocks were in the Post Stage-II. The district had 9 blocks as on March 31, 1978 and the details regarding the date of inception, area and population, number of villages and panchayats in each block are shown below :—

Block	Year of opening of block	Area (in sq.kilo-metre)	Population (1971)	Number of villages	Number of Panchayats
Narnaul	1961	294.00	55,374	61	54
Ateli	1956	256.60	62,805	80	71
Nangal Chaudhry	1961	382.72	76,093	80	64
Mahendragarh	1961	534.00	62,498	70	61
Kanina	..	412.40	75,722	61	54
Rewari	1955	444.09	74,542	114	66
Khole at Rewari	1956	808.27	63,762	63	50
Bawal	1956	316.00	66,808	105	72
Jatusana	1973	333.65	72,947	80	64

As already mentioned, the main object of the programme of community development is to improve the whole texture of rural life by originating a self-generating process of change and growth. People's participation and contribution in this programme is of prime importance. It is not easy to assess this contribution because it is mostly in the shape of manual labour and voluntary participation. The achievements of these blocks cannot be set out in exact terms, hence a broad outline of their activities is given below :—

Improved seeds, implements, and fertilizers are supplied to cultivators at subsidized rates. They are encouraged to preserve dung in pits. The development authorities also help the farmer in reclaiming land and laying out model farms. Financial assistance is given for constructing percolation wells and installation of pumping sets and tubewells. Cow and buffalo

bulls of good breed are supplied to villagers. Artificial insemination centres are set-up.

Health and sanitation activities cover opening of new hospitals, rural health centres, rural dispensaries, child welfare and maternity centres, construction of drains, dry latrines and smokeless *chulahs*, pavement of streets, installation of hand pumps and construction of wells for drinking water.

Educational activities cover opening of new schools, upgrading of old schools, conversion of schools into basic type and construction and repairing of school buildings. In adult literacy centres, men and women are encouraged to learn the three Rs'. Libraries and reading rooms are started and young villagers are encouraged to organise into youth clubs. Mahila Samitis are organized for the welfare of women folk. Children's parks and *balwadis* (nurseries) are started for the benefit of the children. *Panchayat ghars*, *Harijan chaupals* and community centres are constructed and radio sets are also supplied for the benefit of the community. People are encouraged to construct roads. Besides, the villagers are also encouraged to organise themselves into cooperative credit societies, industrial societies, farming societies and service societies of various kinds.

Village and small scale industries are encouraged by setting-up demonstration-cum-training centres where villagers are trained in various arts and crafts. The block development authorities select model villages to serve as examples for other villages.

The achievements relating to the above schemes in the Mahendragarh district are given in Table X of Appendix.