

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Miscellaneous occupations occupy the remnant, yet important status in the occupational structure of the society; remnant because they do not fall in major categories, viz. agriculture, industry, transport, communications, etc. and important because they cover most varied and wide range of influential services in their fold. These occupations in urban as well as rural areas constitute a significant part of the life of the people and the pattern is the same as elsewhere in the state. These occupations cover public and defence services and those engaged in earning a livelihood on self-employed basis. In addition, there are a few persons who are engaged in domestic services and work as cook, bearers, servants, gardeners and chowkidars. Some women work as *ayas* or part-time maid servants.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Employment in government administration is highly valued because of the job security and other facilities connected therewith. The persons in government services are given dearness allowance related to some extent to the cost of living. In addition, class IV employees are provided with liveries, conveyance allowance and washing allowance. Residential accommodation is also made available wherever possible. There is also a provision for compulsory contribution to provident fund for government employees so that their dependents may not feel economic hardship in case of their premature death or on superannuation. They are also entitled to the benefits of gratuity and pension after retirement. All government employees and their dependents are given free medical treatment at government hospitals and dispensaries. They are also allowed reimbursement of expenses incurred for medical treatment. Loans for the construction of residential buildings, marriage of dependents and for the purchase of vehicles are granted to them. The grade IV employees are provided interest free loans for the purchase of wheat; recoverable during the same financial year. The employees who have not been provided with government accommodation are being given house rent allowance according to the classification of towns on the basis of population. The employees have been given a right of forming associations.

There has been an increase in the number of jobs in the public services under the state and central governments as also local bodies

and quasi-government organisations after Independence. After the formation of Haryana, a sizeable part of the working population was able to get jobs in public services in the district.

In 1975, the total number of employees in the public sector was 13,233 which increased to 13,957 in 1976 reflecting an increase of 5.5 per cent. Again in 1978, the number of employees in this sector rose to 14,951 representing an increase of 12.97 per cent compared to the year 1975.

DEFENCE SERVICES

The district contributed a large number of recruits to the different branches of the defence services during the two World Wars. The soldiers of this district gave prestigious performance in World War II and Victoria Cross was awarded to Sub. Richhpal Ram in 1941-42 and Sub. Ram Sarup Singh in 1944-45. A large number of soldiers from the district fought in NEFA, Western and Eastern areas when the Chinese invaded India in 1962 and during Pakistan hostilities in 1965 and 1971. The following defence personnel received gallantry awards for distinguished services :

| Recipient | Gallantry award | Year in which granted |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. Hav. Hira Lal | Vir Chakra | 1947 |
| 2. Sub./Hony. Capt. Hoshiar Singh Yadav | Vir Chakra | 1948 |
| 3. Sub. Sardul Singh | Vir Chakra | 1948 |
| 4. Hav. Dhansi Ram | Vir Chakra | 1948 |
| 5. Hav. Agna Ram | Vir Chakra | 1948 |
| 6. N/Sub. Dharam Chand Dhillan | Vir Chakra | 1962 |
| 7. Sub./Hony. Capt. Ram Chander | Vir Chakra | 1962 |
| 8. L/NK. Ram Singh | Vir Chakra | 1947 |
| 9. Sub./Hony. Capt. Ram Kumar Yadav | Vir Chakra | 1962 |
| 10. N/Sub Ram Chander | Vir Chakra | 1962 |
| 11. Sub. Dharam Singh | Vir Chakra | 1962 |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|------------|------|
| 12. | L/NK. Singh Ram | Vir Chakra | 1962 |
| 13. | NK. Gulab Singh | Vir Chakra | 1965 |
| 14. | NK. Jagdish Singh | Vir Chakra | 1965 |
| 15. | L/Hav. Umrao Singh | Vir Chakra | 1965 |
| 16. | NK. Budh Singh | Vir Chakra | 1965 |
| 17. | NK. Ram Kumar | Vir Chakra | 1965 |
| 18. | Sub. Nand Kishor | Vir Chakra | 1971 |
| 19. | Sub. Nanji Ram | Vir Chakra | 1971 |
| 20. | Cmdr. B.B. Yadav | M.V.C. | 1971 |
| 21. | Seaman Chaman Singh Yadav | M.V.C. | 1971 |
| 22. | Hav. Nand Ram | Vir Chakra | 1971 |
| 23. | Dfr. Ram Chander | Vir Chakra | 1971 |

The number of ex-servicemen and active soldiers in the district during 1977-78 was 16,951 and 4,315 respectively.

The state government has 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 forces 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, Mahendragarh, 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 have been started 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.

The objects of the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen are as follows :—

1. To award stipends to ex-servicemen for technical and vocational training at a recognised training institute;
2. to sanction grants or loans to co-operative societies or other associations of ex-servicemen for schemes and projects of resettlement, i.e., horticulture, animal husbandry, industry, transport, and the like;
3. to sanction scholarship or grants to dependents of ex-servicemen for higher studies in India beyond high or higher secondary stage in technical, vocational or agricultural education;
4. to sanction expenditure or 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.

SERVICES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

With the growth of economic activity, employment avenues are increasing within private sector also. Although the people prefer government employment due to security of service and benefits of dearness allowance, house rent allowance, etc. yet the private sector absorbs 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 perks. The provision of bonus, overtime allowance, contributory provident fund and non-transferable status of the employment are quite a few provisions which make employment in private sector attractive. The industrial and commercial establishments, shops, schools and other educational institutions provide an employment in private sector. Only 1,597 persons (9.6 per cent of the total employment) were employed in the district in private sector in 1978. Excluding Jind district the employment in private sector in the district is still the lowest among all the districts of the state. There are adequate measures under various labour laws to look after the welfare of workers in industrial establishment¹.

The commercial establishments and shopkeepers in towns employ

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

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. In March 1978, 1,045 workers were covered under the Act.

The pay scales of teachers in private institutions, which are recognised and receive grants from the government, 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.

Besides the above categories, there are a few professions which move independently and play no less important role in the life of the people in the district. One of these is category of private medical practitioners and another class is that of private transporters who have bus, motor cars, trucks, matadors, tempos and autorickshaws for their employment.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Among these are included barbers, washermen and tailors.

Barbers.—Their number which also included hair dressing saloons and beauty shops, according to 1971 Census, was 904.

The old practice of family barber in the urban areas has become extinct. Now a days people go to hair cutting saloons for hair-cut and shaving purposes. Affluent and wealthy persons, however, arrange barber services at their home and pay their charges.

In villages, the old tradition of family barber has lost its importance but a few old barbers still engage themselves to this profession in general and not in a particular family. He receives his remuneration in kind or cash. The hair-cutting charges are Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.50 and shaving charges are fixed at Re. 1.

Washermen.—In 1971, their number was 200. These included launders, *dhobis* and dry cleaners and dyers. Out of these, 170 persons were engaged in urban areas and the remaining 30 in rural areas. Due to quick and efficient service, the launders are gaining popularity over *dhobis*. Many exclusive shops of dry cleaning have also been opened. Some dyers also serve in rural areas.

Tailors.—These included cutters, furriers and related workers and their number according to 1971 Census was 357. In the urban areas the tailors make shirts, bushirts, pants and *pyjamas* and suits while in the rural areas they generally make trousers, *kurti*, suits and *lehngas* besides the clothes of latest fashion.

Tailors who run their own shops are called master tailors and employ 1 to 10 persons depending upon the workload and the accommodation available. They are either paid monthly or on job basis. Master tailors employed by them usually do the stitching job. The sewing charges vary from place to place and shop to shop as per their skill and specialisation. The practice of family tailors has almost vanished. However, on certain occasion, i.e. marriage, the tailors are called at home for stitching clothes.

SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

The scope of work of self-employed persons is wide. It includes *julahas* (weavers), *mochis* (shoe-makers), sweepers, potters, stone-dressers, hand-cart pedlars, hawkers, and all other persons who work for their living or sell their individual services on demand. Changing circumstances give rise to some new occupations, for example, the public eating houses. The growing habit of eating out-side has led to the growth of restaurants, snack bars, coffee houses and tea stalls. Likewise, the desire to wear standardised clothes is responsible for shops dealing in ready-made garments. The increasing use of bicycles, auto-cycles, cycle-rickshaws, mopeds, scooters and motor cars has been responsible for cycle-repairers and auto-mechanics. The recent trend toward mechanised farming has led to the opening of tractor repair workshops. A number of shops dealing in agricultural implements and motor and tractor spare parts have also been set up. There is a host of shops of all kinds, *halwai* shops, *pan-bidi* shops, shops manufacturing or selling aerated water (soft drinks), shops dealing in grocery and vegetables and fruit shops. Bakeries sell their products directly or through agents. Goldsmiths manufacture gold and silver ornaments. Shops dealing in general merchandise, oilman's stores and consumer goods and novelties also cater to the needs of the people. Self-employed persons also include street singers, jugglers and quacks.

The *julahas* (weavers), *mochis* (shoe-makers), potters and sweepers are spread throughout the district. Most of them in the rural areas still help the farmers in their agricultural activities and perform their customary professional services on the occasion of marriages and other ceremonies. The *mochis* who function only as cobblers usually roam about in the streets, hanging their equipments by the shoulders in a box. They usually attend to the repairing, mending and reconditioning of shoes. Others who take to shoe-making have their own shops and undertake the making of new shoes. The potters make ordinary vessels mostly for the use of villagers. The earthen pitchers and *surahis* are sold in large number during summer season both in urban and rural

areas. 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 or kind on festivals and ceremonial occasions. In recent years, owing to better employment facilities and privileges, the sweepers have been shifting over to services in government offices and private organisations.

The hand-cart pedlars and hawkers go about the towns and villages hawking their goods. The goods which they sell include among other articles of daily use, vegetables, fruits, eatables, general merchandise, crockery, cloth and toys.

Except in very small villages, a tea-stall of some kind has made its appearance depending on the clientele, local and otherwise which patronizes it. The smaller ones managed by a single person and serving nothing but tea are generally shabby. The bigger ones which also serve other hot and cold beverages and some eatables are more presentable in appearance and are managed by more than one person. A few modern-type restaurants have also sprung up in the urban areas and these engage cooks and bearers according to the size and requirements of the establishments.

The rapid and continuous increase in the number of bicycles both in the urban and rural areas has made the bicycle repairing much popular. No high skill is required for this job. Bicycle repairers are, therefore, found in every nook and corner of the district. Although slack during rainy season, the business remains brisk throughout the year particularly during the summer when persons with bicycle repair tools can be seen under the shade of trees by the roadside. On the other hand, the auto-mechanics have their shops only in urban areas.

In every town and a big village one comes across shops dealing in general merchandise. These goods comprise toilet articles (as combs, hair-brushes, mirrors, etc.), soaps, oils, tooth-pastes, tooth-brushes, shoe-polishes, hosiery articles, ready-made garments and other articles of daily use. They have flourishing business and with the rise in the standard of living there is an increasing demand for consumer goods and in fact new shops are coming into existence.

Every town and big village of the district has a number of *halwai* shops. In the old days their familiar sweetmeat preparations were *laddus* and *jalebis*. The development of communications and an increasing contact with other parts of the country have introduced some new sweetmeat preparations like *gulab jamuns*, *rasgullas*, *barfi* and *halwas* of different varieties. In urban areas sweetmeats prepared from milk

are more popular. These shops generally employ two or three or even more persons according to the requirements of the establishments. This business provides employment throughout the year.

Pan-bidi stalls are tiny shops which are a familiar sight throughout the district. These one-man units in towns which usually sell cigarettes also become social centres for people who stop to listen to the radio broadcasts and film music and talk about current events.

A grocer supplies the basic necessities of daily use. A number of such shops can be found in every locality. Although these are one-man establishments, sometime a helper is also engaged. Every town has a number of shops selling vegetables and fruits. Enterprising people carry vegetables and fruits on their *rehris* and sell these to customers at their doors.

It is not unusual to come across a bakery even in a small town. The bakeries have gained popularity owing to the demand for their ready products. The bakery units sell their products in wholesale as well as in retail. Usually the grocers and hawkers buy these products wholesale and retail these to their customers along with other articles.

Different types of gold and silver ornaments are prepared in goldsmiths' shops. The ordinary goldsmiths cannot afford to purchase or stock precious metals like gold and silver. These are, therefore, supplied to them by the customers who place orders for ornaments. However, richer goldsmiths have their own stock and they prepare ornaments even without taking gold and silver in advance from the customers. This business is very brisk at the time of marriages.

Common jugglers usually earn their living by showing feats of jugglery and other tricks to an audience they manage to collect. Occasionally, we may find a *bandarwala* or *richhwala* entertaining the people by showing the feats of monkeys or the bear he has trained for the purpose. The snake-charmer also belongs to this category. What these people collect in return for the entertainment they provide is anybody's guess. The quack who exhibits his medicinal stuff on the roadside and uses his powers of oratory to extol the potency of his medicines is a familiar sight everywhere. He is usually successful in palming off his stuff to credulous people and before long moves off to another station to avoid receiving complaints about his ineffective preparations.

In Rewari town there are large number of *thatheras*, working on piece meal basis. *Thatheras* do hand work on brass and pewter utensils like engraving or making some designs on these. These people take the raw material to their homes and work on them and

return the finished products to the shopkeepers thereby earning their livelihood.

The people of the district are educationally very backward. However, they are in the grip of orthodoxy. Art of astrology, palmistry and performance of religious rites have become full-time occupations and are the main source of incomes of *Purohit* (Pandit), *Poojari*, *Padre* and *Granthi*. The priests conduct worship and perform rites in accordance with religious scriptures and recognised practices in a temple and make their living in return for their services. The astrologers prepare and interpret horoscopes to tell past events and make prediction about future. Palmists also read lines of hands and other symbols of persons and thus they make a handsome living.

DOMESTIC SERVICES

The domestic services 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 little 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 mensem beside food and clothing. Some people employ *palis* for grazing their cattle, *halis* for ploughing the fields and others for agricultural operations on contract basis in rural areas, and hardly any family employs servants for domestic work. Mostly women attend to their domestic work themselves, however the *halis* and other agricultural labourers employed besides attending to agricultural operations, do domestic work of their masters. These persons who are generally landless labourers are paid fixed proportion of the harvest or cash wages.