

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Social services as now understood are a new phase of public activities which have been assuming greater importance day by day to fulfil the aims and objectives of a welfare state. Before Independence, the government whether British or the princely states paid little attention to the social welfare and were mainly concerned with the maintenance of law and order, preservation of peace and guarding the life and property of the people. Since 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 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.

Before Independence, there was no regular government organisation to ensure the welfare of the workers and to solve the labour problems in the district. A separate Labour Department in the composite Punjab was established in 1949. Till the creation of Haryana as a separate state (November 1, 1966), all labour matters relating to the areas now comprising Mahendragarh district were looked after by the Labour Officer, Rohtak, and the Conciliation Officer, Bhiwani. After the creation of Haryana, the above two offices were combined and a Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer was posted at Bhiwani. Since August 5, 1973, the Mahendragarh district falls within the jurisdiction of the Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Gurgaon, who is under the overall charge of the Labour Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Gurgaon looks after the proper and effective implementation of labour laws in the district and is assisted by a Labour Inspector stationed at Rewari. As a Conciliation Officer,

he tries to settle the industrial disputes by mediation and joint discussion. If he fails to settle the disputes, he submits his report to the government.

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 employers 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 enactments passed and implemented are listed below :

Subject matter	Name of the Act	Whether Central or State Act	Main provisions
1	2	3	4
Working conditions, industrial safety, hygiene and welfare inside the place of work	(1) The Factories Act, 1948	Central Act	Elaborate provisions have been made in the Act regarding the conditions of work inside factories including hours of work, employment of young persons, leave with wages, occupational diseases, safeguard for health, promotion of safety and welfare of workers and special provision for young persons and women. Welfare measures like first-aid appliances, canteens, creches, cold drinking water, etc., near the places of work have also been provided under the Act.
	(2) The Employment of Children Act, 1938	Central Act	The Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 15 years in any occupation connected with the transport of passengers, goods or mail by railways or connected with a port authority within the limits of any port. It also prohibits employment of children in the workshops connected with bidi-making, carpet, weaving, cement manufacture (including bagging of cement), cloth printing, dyeing and weaving, manufacture

1	2	3	4
			of matches, explosives and fire-works, mica cutting and splitting, shellac manufacture, soap manufacture, tanning and wool cleaning.
	(3) The Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958	State Act	The Act regulates conditions of work and term of employment of workers engaged in shops and commercial establishments and in those industrial establishments which are not covered under the Factories Act, 1948. It covers hours of work, holidays, leave, wages, employment of children and their working hours, closing and opening hours, health, safety, maternity benefits and welfare.
Wages	(1) The payment of Wages Act, 1936	Central Act	The Act regulates timely payment of wages without any unauthorised deductions. As a result of an amendment in 1975, the coverage of the Act has been extended to persons getting wages upto Rs, 1,000 per mensem.
	(2) The Minimum Central Wages Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for fixation of minimum wages, working hours, weekly rest, etc.
	(3) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976	Central Act	The Act provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination on the ground of sex against women.
Industrial relations	(1) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947	Central Act	The Act provides for settlement of industrial disputes, lay off payment and payments at the time of retrenchment. As a result of an amendment (in 1965) in Section 2-A of the Act, any individual can raise a dispute relating to his dismissal. By another amendment in 1976, the industrial establishments employing 300 or more workers are required to obtain prior permission of the government in matters of lay-off and retrenchment of workers and closure of their unit(s).

1	2	3	4
Trade Unions	(2) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946	Central Act	The Act requires employers to make standing orders defining terms of employment of workers on specified matters and to get them certified by the certifying officer.
	The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926	Central Act	The Act makes provision for the registration of trade unions and describes the rights, privileges, obligation and liabilities of registered trade unions.
Social Security	(1) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of compensation to workmen in case of injury caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of employment. It also provides for payment of compensation for certain occupational diseases. As a result of an amendment in 1976 the coverage of the Act has been extended with retrospective effect to workers getting wages not exceeding Rs. 1,000 per mensem.
	(2) The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948	Central Act	The Act provides for five types of benefits to the employees, viz. sickness benefit, maternity benefit, dependents benefit, disablement benefit and medical benefit.
	(3) The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952	Central Act	The Act seeks to make a provision for the future of industrial worker after he retires or is retrenched or for his dependent in case of his early death.
	(4) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for payment of cash benefit to women workers for specified periods before and after child birth and for other incidental matters.
	(5) The Punjab Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965	State Act	All unpaid accumulations of workers have to be paid to the Labour Welfare Board constituted for the purpose by the State government, which shall keep a separate account to be utilised by it for

	(6) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972	Central Act	defraying the cost of carrying out measures for promoting the welfare of labourers and their dependents. To provide for a scheme for the payment of gratuity for employees engaged in factories, mines, oil-fields, plantation, ports, railway, companies, shops or other establishments and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Gratuity [shall be payable to an employee on the termination of his employment after he has rendered continuous service for not less than 5 years. Gratuity payable under this Act, shall not be liable to attachment in execution of any decree or order of any civil, revenue or criminal court.
Housing	The Punjab Industrial Housing Act, 1956	State Act	The Act provides for the administration, allotment, realisation of rent, etc., in connection with quarter constructed under the subsidised industrial housing scheme.
Bonus	The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965	Central Act	Every establishment whether running in a profit or loss is required to pay bonus at the rate of 4 per cent or Rs. 40 whichever is more.
Leave	The Punjab Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays and Casual and Sick leave) Act, 1965	State Act	Every establishment has to allow to its employees, the following : National Holidays 3 (i.e. 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October) Festival Holidays 5 Casual Leave 7 Sick Leave 14

1	2	3	4
Welfare of transport workers	The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	Central Act	The Act provides for the welfare of motor transport workers and regulates the conditions of their work. It applies to every motor transport undertaking employing five or more workers.
Welfare of contract workers	The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970	Central Act	The Act regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith.
	The Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976	Central Act	It prevents the forceful labour.

The Factories Act, 1948, is one of the most important labour legislations. 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 have also been made obligatory.

The Factory Inspector, Hisar inspects the factories of Mahendragarh district. To look after the general welfare of its employees, every factory employing 500 or more workers is required to appoint a Labour Officer. However, there is no such factory in this district at present.

Industrial Relations.—The industrial relations between the workers and the employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. As already mentioned, the Labour Officer-cum-Conciliation Officer, Gurgaon, settles disputes which come to his notice during the course of discharging his duties. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides for the constitution of works committees in the industrial establishments employing 100 or more workers. These committees resolve differences between the workers and the employers in the initial stages. Such committees exist in H.P. Industries, Rewari and Aggarwal Metal Works, Rewari.

During the period from November, 1966 to March, 1978, 117 disputes of this district were handled by the Conciliation Officer, Gurgaon. Of these, 24 were settled through intervention; 8 were referred to adjudication/arbitration; 23 were withdrawn and 59 were rejected by the government.

Strikes.—In spite of the efforts to maintain healthy and peaceful atmosphere in industrial concerns, strikes do take place now and then. From November, 1966 to March, 1978 two strikes occurred in two establishments in which 182 workers were involved and 352 man-days were lost.

Trade Unions.—The following trade unions existed in the district on March 31, 1978 :—

1. Municipal Employees Union, Mahendragarh
2. Municipal Employees Union, Narnaul
3. Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh, Rewari
4. Municipal Karamchari Sangh, Rewari
5. The Akhil Bhartiya Mazdoor Shora Association, Rewari
6. Aggarwal Metal Works Karamchari Union, Rewari
7. Rehri Mazdoor Union, Rewari
8. Safai Mazdoor Union, Rewari

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 others 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 from December 31, 1960 and the establishments employing 20 or more persons are 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 in 1963. By March, 1978, only 8 factories/establishments were covered under the scheme in the Mahendragarh 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, Chandigarh, is responsible for the implementation of this scheme.

The subscriber can withdraw money from the provident fund for certain approved purposes. He is allowed to withdraw the full amount standing at his credit in the fund on completing 15 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.

Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Scheme, 1971.—This is a centrally sponsored scheme which was introduced by amending the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. Started in 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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 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 a sum of Rs. 4,000. Similarly, those who leave service for reasons other than death are allowed withdrawal benefits at certain rates. For those who join scheme after the age of 25 years, a percentage reduction in benefits has been prescribed.

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 his 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 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 receives wages.

The scheme is implemented 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, Chandigarh, 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 standards laid down by the Employees State Insurance Corporation; 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 scheme was introduced in the Rewari tahsil in 1968 and on March 31, 1978, 2,050 employees working in 35 units were covered under the scheme. Free medical treatment to the insured persons and the members of their family is administered through E.S.I. dispensaries at Rewari.

PROHIBITION

A programme of partial prohibition of observing two dry days, i.e. Monday and Tuesday, in a week besides other four dry days (Independence day—15th August, Acharya Vinoba Bhave's birthday—11th September and Mahatma Gandhi's birth day—2nd October), was introduced in April, 1969, in the areas which now comprise Mahendragarh district. The above policy was intended to increase the number of dry days gradually in each successive year to achieve complete prohibition within three or four years. But during this partial prohibition, government noticed malpractices of selling liquor on prohibited days. The whole situation was, therefore, reviewed in March, 1970 and with effect from April, 1970, it was decided to enforce only the policy of observing three or four closed days in a year. However, from April, 1973, every 7th day of a month is also observed as a closed day.

It was further decided that no liquor shop should be opened within a distance of 50 metres from an educational institution or bus stand or place of public worship or public entertainment, and 100 metres of a school or a college for women. The maximum limit of keeping only one bottle of country spirit in an individual's possession was also introduced. The total prohibition was enforced with effect from April, 1971, in the Mahendragarh district which remained dry for two years. On April, 1, 1973, the district was again declared wet. By the end of March, 1978, there were 69 liquor

vends including 22 dealing in Indian-made foreign liquor. The consumption of excisable articles in the district during 1975-76 to 1977-78 was as follows :—

Year	Country liquor (proof litres)	Foreign liquor (proof litres)	Beer and wine (proof litres)
1975-76	2,80,225	29,126	66,251
1976-77	3,00,000	32,772	1,18,333
1977-78	3,06,032	52,533	1,59,346

The number of cases detected under the Excise and Opium Acts during the period from 1975-76 to 1977-78 was as under :—

Year	Cases detected	
	Excise Act	Opium Act
	(Number)	(Number)
1975-76	781	155
1976-77	770	164
1977-78	384	62

There has been total prohibition of the consumption of opium and *bhang* throughout Haryana.

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 old-age pension scheme was introduced in the composite Punjab in 1964 but it was scrapped in 1967. Again it was revived in April, 1969. As a measure of social security for the old and infirm, old-age pensions are given to old and infirm persons, irrespective of caste and creed, who have no means of livelihood and there is none to look after them. In case of men, they should be above 65 years and in case of women, above 60 years. The age is relaxable by 10 years for the permanent physically handicapped persons. Under this scheme, each beneficiary was previously given a pension of Rs. 25 per month but it was enhanced to Rs. 50 in April, 1977.

The total number of beneficiaries covered under this scheme in the district, as on March 31, 1978, was 468.

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 classes also. The rate of scholarship ranges between Rs. 40 to Rs. 185. During the year 1977-78, 16 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. During 1977-78, there were two such centres at Narnaul and the number of beneficiaries during the same period was 396.

Child Welfare.—A branch of the Haryana State Council for Child Welfare was set up at Narnaul in 1971 to promote the welfare of children and to educate the public on child welfare. The District Council for Child Welfare, Narnaul runs ten *balwadis* at the following places :—

1. Balawas Ahir (Rewari tahsil)
2. Bhudpur (Rewari tahsil)
3. Dahina (Rewari tahsil)
4. Gurawada (Rewari tahsil)
5. Jainabad (Rewari tahsil)
6. Khori (Rewari tahsil)
7. Moondi (Rewari tahsil)
8. Mahendragarh (Mahendragarh tahsil)
9. Narnaul (Narnaul tahsil)
10. Siha (Rewari tahsil)

In addition to above institutions, there are creches at Johnawas, Hansaka, Khori, Narnaul, Bachhod, Bikaner and Nangal Chaudhry. Special home work classes-cum-play centres are also being run at Bachhod, Nangal Chaudhry, Jainabad, Siha, Johnawas, Balawas Ahir, Moondi, Budpur, Hansaka, Dahina, Dharuhera, Gurawada and Khori.

All the *balwadis*, creches and special work classes-cum-play centres are run by the trained Balsevikas. The main activities of the *balwadis* are to give pre-school education to the children of rural people and to those who are economically backward. The children are guided on the importance of cleanliness and environmental knowledge. The elementary knowledge about animals, vegetables and counting is also given. The children are also given facilities for developing their artistic taste at their initial stages through paper cutting, clay-modelling, paper pasting, figure painting, etc. Besides, main activities of the day-care centres (creches) are to save the ailing and nursing mothers from any type of hazard.

The main sources of income of the District Council for Child Welfare are membership subscription, public donations and grant from the Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, Chandigarh.

Advancement of Backward Classes

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

Scheduled Castes : Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Reghar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Mochi, Balmiki, Chura or Bhangi, Dhanak, Dumma, Doom, Kabirpanthi, Khatik, Koli, Mazhabi, Perna, Sikligar, Sapela, Sirkiband, Bangali, Bauria or Bawaria, Bazigar;

Vimukat Jatis : Gandhila, Nat, Kuchband;

Other Backward Classes : Bairagi, Bharbhunja, Bhat, Banzara, Dhobi, Dakaut, Fakir, Heri or Naik, Gawaria, Guaria, Nai or Hajjam, Julaha, Jogi Nath, Kumhar, Khati, Chhipi, Lohar, Kashyap Rajput, Teli, Maniyar, Thathera, Mochi¹.

The different professions adopted by these classes are almost traditional. These include agricultural labour, labour, sweeping, scavenging, shoe-making or shoe-mending, 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

1. Only a non-Hindu or a non-Sikh mochi is covered under the Backward Classes.

stratified society. The opportunities for betterment were practically denied. Other 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 source 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. 20 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, 1978, 29 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 Vimukat 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 person at 3 per cent interest. During the period, a sum of Rs. 31,000 was granted as loan to 31 persons in the district. But this scheme was again withdrawn due to rise in the price of land. Under a special programme, Harijans are given a site of 100 square yards free of cost.

Subsidy for the Construction of the 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. This facility improved their standard of living to some extent. During 1963-64 to 1977-78, a sum of Rs. 3,48,100 was disbursed to 363 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. 1,61,454 was disbursed as subsidy for digging 62 new wells and for the repair of 74 old wells in 136 villages of the district from 1966-67 to 1977-78.

Award of Scholarship and Re-imbusement 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-imbusement of 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 institutions. During the course, a scholarship of Rs. 45 per month is given to the students of Scheduled Castes. By March 31, 1978, 472 students were given scholarships 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 and architecture. Besides them, 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 granted to the borrower is Rs. 2,000. During 1958-59 to 1977-78, a sum of Rs. 1,93,415 was advanced to 308 persons of the district.

Subsidy/Loan for the Purchase of Agricultural Land.—To help the deserving landless members of Scheduled Castes and Vimukat 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 of 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. A subsidy 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.

During 1958-59 to 1966-67, a subsidy of Rs. 1,74,000 was granted to 57 beneficiaries for the purchase of agricultural land. In addition to this, an

amount of Rs. 54,500 was distributed as subsidy among 78 persons for the construction of wells on the land so purchased. Further, an amount of Rs. 1,440 was granted as subsidy to 4 persons for the payment of stamp duty. The total area of land purchased with the financial assistance from the government was 750 acres by 150 persons.

An amount of Rs. 48,500 was granted as loan to 11 persons for the purchase of agricultural land during years 1969-70 and 1972-73.

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 other 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 Vimukta 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. Since the creation of Haryana in 1977-78, legal assistance amounting to Rs. 1,498 was granted to 24 persons.

Subsidy for the Purchase of Pigs.—This scheme was started in 1959-60. The deserving and needy members of the Scheduled Castes are given a subsidy of Rs. 800 each for the purchase of pigs. A sum of Rs. 45,800 was paid to 57 beneficiaries during the period from 1966-67 to 1977-78.

Subsidy for Construction /Repair of Chaupals.—The members of Scheduled Castes had no place for their get-together and the celebration of the marriages of their children. In order to remove this difficulty, the government introduced a scheme in 1970-71 under which a sum of Rs. 5,000 was given as subsidy for the construction of a new chaupal and Rs. 2,000 for the repair of the existing one. An amount of Rs. 5,48,500 was distributed under this scheme by the end of March, 1978 among 198 villages for the construction/repair of chaupals.

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 the Harijans for their socio-economic and educational uplift.

The Nigam advances loans at the moderate rate of interest for various trades/professions, such as dairy-farming, leather-work, purchase of tractor, taxi, tempo, sheep and goats, setting up of flour mills, 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 cooperative societies comprising members of Scheduled Castes only. The loans advanced by Haryana Harijan Kalyan Nigam to the members of Scheduled Castes in Mahendragarh district for various trades/professions during 1973-74 to 1977-78, are detailed below :—

Trade/Profession	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1. Dairy Farming	23,000	58,500	22,500	14,500	10,500
2. Sheep & Goats	9,000	46,000	6,000	10,500	2,500
3. Leather	31,500	19,000	5,000	2,000	—
4. Piggery	—	3,500	3,000	3,000	2,000
5. Tractors	—	—	—	—	—
6. Sub-dealership in Tractors	—	—	—	—	—
7. Flour Mills	—	10,000	—	—	—
8. Miscellaneous	19,000	23,000	14,000	20,000	9,900
Total :	82,500	1,60,000	50,500	50,500	24,900

Social Equality.—The Directive Principles of State Policy lays 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. It is now amply recognised that nobody becomes an untouchable by birth or on account of his following a particular avocation.

Despite these constitutional guarantees, the 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 are large concentrations of members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. The community centres are functioning at Bachhod (Narnaul tahsil), Kutabpur (Rewari tahsil), Bawal (Bawal tahsil), Budoli (Rewari tahsil) and Bassi (Mahendragarh tahsil). These centres are open to the members of other communities as well. The centres provide an opportunity to get training together. The other activities such as games and cultural programmes propagate against untouchability.

CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS

The charitable organisations play a very important role in the society. Such trusts render voluntary social service to the people. Many educational institutions, *dharamarth ausdhalyas*, dispensaries and *dharmshalas* are being run by these organisations. The sources of income include voluntary contributions or income from revenue exempt lands. Some of the important charitable trusts as on March 31, 1978 are described below :—

1. **Lala Radhakrishan Kandia Dharmada Trust.**—Established by Lala Mangat Rai/Ganpat Rai Shadi on September 14, 1901 at Mahendragarh, it has been serving the people with the objective of charitable purposes. It is running a charitable middle school and a *dharamshala* at Mahendragarh.

2. **Seth Tara Chand Trust.**—With the aim of charitable service to the people, the trust was established at Mahendragarh by Mrs. Ratni Bai on July 30, 1926. It is running a *dharmarth ausdhalya*.

3. **Shri Gujarmal Sirohiwala Trust.**—It was established with the sole aim of the service to the people on charitable grounds by Shri Gujarmal in 1964. Besides other things, the trust is running a water-hut in the town.

4. **Mahadev Parshad Dharamarth Trust.**—The trust was set up at Narnaul by Shri Mahadev Parshad in 1980 B.K. It is rendering eye-service to the people.

5. **Dadudayal Trust.**—The trust was established at Narnaul in 1961 by Shri Dadudayal. Its aim was to raise *dharamarth* temples to inculcate a sense of worship to the people.

6. **Satya Kabir Dharmarth Trust.**—It was set with the objective of opening temples in 1971 by Mahant Pokhar Dass. It is serving the society in the domain of religion.

7. **Girdhari Trust, Narnaul.**—The trust was started at Narnaul in 1959 by Shri Girdhari Lal. It is serving the people by opening water-huts on charitable grounds in the district.

8. **Mandir Devi Ji Trust at Dhosi-hill.**—The trust was established by Nand Braham Chari in 2007 B.K. It helps in running a temple and Sanskrit School at Shiv Kund at Dhosi-hill.