

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

Miscellaneous occupations falling under tertiary sector of economy not finding mention elsewhere are described in the following pages. These professions comprise service like public, defence, private, personal, domestic or self employment to meet the daily requirements of the people. Besides, there are a considerable number of people who earn their livelihood by following small crafts and other occupations such as haircutting, tailoring, laundry work etc. These occupations also include persons working as domestic servants. These occupations are of miscellaneous nature and provide employment to a large number of people both in urban and rural areas. The urban population depends upon non-agricultural activities, such as household industry, manufacturing industries, transport, trade commerce etc. A glance at the modern urban and rural life reveals that there are certain other occupations which neither directly come under the purview of the industry nor under that of agriculture. These occupations are a result of the economic development in a particular region and their position fluctuates with the changes in the standard of living of the people. As per 2011 census the total population of the district was 12, 05,437 persons (rural 6,50,352 persons and urban 5,55,085 persons) and 53.95 percent of it resides in rural areas and depends upon agriculture and manual labour. The total number of workers in the district was 4,12,318 (3,28,667 males, 83,651 females) in 2011. In the last decade, the industrial growth near the urban areas has led to an increase in urban population. The urban population increased by 41.57 percent as compared to 2001 and constituted 46.04 percent of the total population in 2011 whereas the same was only 40.73 percent (3,92,080 persons) of total (9,67,449 persons) as per 2001 census.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Persons in public services form a very small portion of the total population but have major role in every activity of the district. It includes number of persons employed in administrative departments and offices of State Government, Central Government, quasi-government organizations and local bodies etc.

Persons who are employed in government services have better status and they also get more facilities as compare to the persons in private sector services. The government service is highly valued for its prestige, security of service and pension. Pay scales in the government sector are uniform and are notified by the Finance Department, wherein the minimum basic pay and grade pay for each category of employees has been prescribed. In addition to pay, the government employees are provided dearness allowance to compensate the rising cost of living.

Other amenities that are provided by the Government to its employees include house rent allowance, travelling allowance, and daily allowance in general and special pay, conveyance allowance, washing allowance, kit maintenance allowance, handicapped allowance, non-practicing allowance, flying allowance, hardship allowance, sumptuary/diet money, office expenses, hill area allowance, rural health allowance, deputation allowance, risk allowance, constituency allowance, telephone allowance, cashier allowance etc. in specified cases. Government servants are also entitled to free medical facilities for indoor treatment and for outdoor treatment they get ₹ 500 per month. Facility of loans for purchase of plots, constructions of houses, purchase of vehicles, computers etc are also provided to the employees. Government housing is also substantial facility for government employees, which is allowed as per availability. The Government employees both Central and State are also entitled to avail themselves for leave travel concession along with members of their family to visit any place in the country in a block of four years and for home town visits in a block of two years. The facility of free liveries and interest free loan during festival season and for purchase of wheat has also been provided to Class IV employees, in addition. Provision has been made by the government for compulsory deduction of General/Contributory Provident Fund so that the dependents may be provided for in the event of premature death of a government employee. The female employees are entitled to maternity leave up to 180 days. The railway employees and their families are provided free and privilege passes for travel.

The Government of Haryana introduced the Group Insurance Scheme in 1976 and amended from time to time for the benefit of State Government Employees, under which a fixed amount is deducted from the pay

of the employee and provisions have been made to pay fixed insurance amount to the family of the employee in case of death while in service. Other security features related to government service include ex-gratia, family pension, gratuity etc.

SERVICES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Private sector includes organized private industry and commercial establishments, shops, hotels private schools, colleges and other educational institutions. The Private Sector absorbs a large number of employees like managers, engineers, lecturers, teachers, salesmen, cooks, assistants, technicians, helpers etc. With the development of Industry, Information and Technology sectors the employment opportunities have increased tremendously in the private sector. The skilled and unskilled persons are also engaged with private sector. The skilled and experienced persons in private sector get an edge even over the government employees in the matter of wages and other benefits. Employees in the large industries and organized sectors are generally well paid, in some cases even better than government employees, and are given lucrative perks like housing (employer-provided or employer-paid), group insurance (health, dental, life etc.), disability income protection, retirement benefits, day-care, sick leave, study leaves, vacation (paid and non-paid), bonus, company lease vehicles and allowances like child education allowance, house rent allowance, overtime etc. These facilities have made employment in private service attractive. Facility of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) is also operational for the workers under the provisions of ESI Act, 1948 under which benefits of maternity leaves, disablement, dependent etc are admissible besides medical facilities. Two ESI dispensaries and a hospital are operating in the district. The workers of both organized as well as unorganized sector are provided adequate protection under various labour laws, while the trade unions have also been organized to protect the rights of industrial workers.

In 2010-11, there were 12181 employees those who were engaged with the private organized sector out of these 8894 were under the ESI Act. Up to December 2010, there were 14366 shops in which 11774 employees were engaged while the numbers of commercial establishment were 473 with the 4331 employees. Hotel and Restaurants have also a new job avenues for the people as their work make them travel to far off the places and stay in hotel

and take meal in the restaurants. There were 196 Hotels in which 728 workers were working in the town in December 2010. The year-wise detail of employment in public sector, local bodies and private sector in the district is given in Table-XXIII of the Appendix.

DEFENCE SERVICES

The Panipat district was fairly popular as a recruiting ground for the British army and contributed a large number of recruits to different branches of the defence services during the World Wars. The soldiers of this district gave tremendous performance during World Wars. This district is proud of its brave soldiers who were honoured with gallantry awards including Vir Chakra in various wars and operations.

The soldiers and officers of the district have played a very important role during the operation Kashmir in 1948 and aggression of China in 1962 and the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971. The soldiers of this district have also taken part in operation Pawan and operation Vijay (Kargil) and also in other operations. The Roll of Honour of soldiers and officers decorated for bravery is given in Table-XXIV of Appendix.

Annuity is also given to the gallantry awardees or their widows, as the case may be, for the rest of their lives. The rates of monetary rewards to the gallantry award winners are as under:-

Name of Award	One time cash award (₹ in Lakh)	Remarks
Paramvir Chakra	31	The rates have been
Ashok Chakra	31	amended from 15.8.2011
Mahavir Chakra	21	vide Chief Secretary to
Kirti Chakra	21	Government, Haryana
Vir Chakra	15	Defence Branch Letter No.
Shaurya Chakra	15	20 / 28 / 85 – 4 D-III dated
Sena/ Nao Sena/ Vayu Sena Medal	7.50	24.04.2012.

The Government has also granted several concessions to the armed forces personnel belonging to Haryana and their families. These concessions

includes rewards in the forms to cash and annuity to winners to 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 force personnel or the families of those killed, disabled or declared missing during service. These concessions are graded according to the status of the personnel or the extent of disability occurred. Further, facilities like reservation in industrial/residential plots, houses of the Housing Board Haryana and exemption/relaxation from payment of charges like stamp duty, house tax, etc. have also been provided to the serving defence personnel and ex-servicemen. The Zila Sainik Board, Panipat looks after the welfare of the ex-servicemen and the families of the defence personnel.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Personal services basically constitute intellectual or manual work performed by a service provider in serving a customer. Personal service activities encompass a wide range of professions including law, medicine, engineering and even routine services like those of saloon, barber, washerman, tailor etc. Being dependent on personal skills, these activities do not require use of capital in order to generate material income.

Legal Profession.—Legal profession includes advocates, pleaders and *munshis*. This profession has an important role to play in the present day complex life when countless laws govern the society. This is a paying profession and attracts a good number of persons due to its respectable status. Lawyers plead for the fundamental and statutory rights of individual and represent the cases of the litigants before the judges in courts. The District Bar Association came into existence on September 29, 1989 after becoming Panipat as district headquarter, and there were 1444 legal practitioners enrolled as its members till 2013¹. The Association is rendering useful service to its members since then and is responsible for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, competence, professional ethics, conduct and discipline.

Engineering Profession.—Engineering professionals provide services for various development works such as construction of buildings, roads, canals and railways, designing and laying of communication networks, installation of power houses and small to heavy industrial plants. Engineers as such play an important role in the all-round development of an area. The detail of persons

employed in engineering services of various government departments has been given in Chapter XIII-Other Departments. Besides, there are some persons who are engaged in the allied professions as contractors, architects, or as consulting engineers.

Barber.—Hair dressing, hair cutting and shaving services are rendered by the barbers. Traditionally, the barbers performed customary services, of shaving and hair cutting coupled with the service of messenger of news of weddings and other auspicious events, to his client. They used to take leading part in all family ceremonies. Barber was not given any fixed remuneration but was given a share in harvest like other village menials. Some barbers are still continuing the old tradition of family barbers which is rare. Family barbers are however generally called for functions like *sagaai*, marriage etc.

In the urban areas the old practice of having a family barbers has come to an end. Now, there are saloons and beauty parlours in the towns. Men and women of well-to-do families have begun spending more and more time on the services of hair and body care like spa, facial, bleaching, waxing, manicure, pedicure, hair-cut and designing etc. In the urban as well as in rural areas of the district, the barbers sit in small shops and in the open to cater to the requirement of middle and lower income group people. The cutting charges vary from shop to shop and the general rate of cutting is ₹15 to ₹20 in the rural area and the rates of cutting are much higher in the shops/saloons of urban area.

Tailoring.— Tailoring is an age old profession that evolved with the evolution of cloth itself. Panipat being a city of looms, tailoring has always been one of the major important occupations in rural as well as in urban areas of the district. Tailor is locally called '*darji*'. In the past, tailors made traditional dresses and it was a caste based profession. Local tailors will typically have a shop or showroom to facilitate clients to choose cloth or to return the same easily for further modification if so required. This is the most traditional form of tailoring. Like Barbers, well-to-do people used to have family tailors who would visit the house of the client ahead of any family occasion and stitch the clothes for the whole family and got remuneration in kind at the time of harvest. But, this practice has faded away with time. Tailoring has always been a paying profession and there is no social bar for its adoption. The profession has flourished to a great extent in the urban areas especially as

well-to-do families; professionals and students of universities, colleges and even schools prefer to wear quality-stitched costumes. The tailors in urban areas prepare clothes according to the taste and latest fashion trends, while those in rural areas prepare ordinary and age old dresses.

With the increase in the population the number of tailoring shops also increased proportionately. Tailoring shops, big and small, are common in towns of the district and the big tailoring shops in urban areas generally employ a number of tailors with special skills of dressmaking, sewing cutting etc for tailoring work. They are usually paid monthly salary or on job basis. Master tailors mainly do the work of measurement or cutting of the cloth. Tailoring charges vary from shop to shop depending on the skills of the tailors. In 1966, a shirt was stitched for ₹ 2 and the woollen suit was stitched for ₹ 55. In 1983, the stitching charge of a shirt was ₹ 25 while a woollen suit was stitched for ₹450, which rose to ₹100 and ₹ 2500, respectively, in 2011. In rural areas, the charges are considerably on lower side.

Washermen.—The profession of washerman these days not only includes washing and ironing of clothes but it has emerged into a technical and specialized profession with the evolution of cloth industry and synthetic fabric. A washerman is supposed to take specialized care of clothes and linen etc. by washing, laundering, dry-cleaning, and keeping them in order. This has expanded the limit of work of traditional *Dhobi* (washerman). *Dhobis*, who only wash and iron clothes, are losing their business because most of the people wash their clothes in house due to introduction of more convenient synthetic cloth and automatic washing machines. People only prefer to send washed clothes to *dhobis* for ironing, who have set up their ironing stalls at convenient points. There are many laundry shops in the city which provide services of washing, ironing, steam-pressing and dry cleaning of all types of clothes. Some shops are exclusively for dry-cleaning. The dry-cleaning shops and laundries are mostly located in the urban areas of the district but they do offer pick and drop services to the nearby rural areas. This business is becoming popular since laundries are more prompt and efficient as compared to washermen who only wash and iron clothes. The charges of laundries are however higher than those of washermen. The washing and ironing charges are taken in cash on per piece basis. In the urban areas the dry cleaning charges vary between ₹50 and ₹300. The charges for ironing

and steam pressing vary from ₹2 to ₹10 per piece and ₹5 to ₹30 per piece, respectively.

SELF EMPLOYED PERSONS

The scope of self employment is very wide. It includes weavers, shoe-makers, cobblers, sweepers, potters, hawkers, priests and all those persons who produce articles of use or provide their services on demand. The Panipat is famous for its weavers. Some of them are not employed in any industry. They make and market their own fabric and goods as per the requirement of their customers. The shoe-makers have their shops at prominent places usually near the bus stop in villages and towns. Sometimes a cobbler with his equipment hanging by the shoulders may be seen hawking for his services in the street. They usually attend to repairing and polishing of shoes and other leather goods. The potters make earthen vessels like pitchers '*matka* or *ghra*' and pots for daily use of people. They make *surahis* during summer season and also the designer earthen pots of various types in urban areas. Hawkers sell the products of daily items, including fruits and vegetables, in the village and town streets either by carrying or on *rehri* (hand driven carts). Priests usually look after the temples in the rural and urban areas and perform customary and religious service on the occasion of marriages and other ceremonies. Few people are employed in the occupations such as motor-mechanics, electrician, *halwai*, grocer, *panwari*, jeweller, plumber, mason, and soft-drink bottler etc. on the basis of their skills. A large number of people of the district are engaged in manufacture, marketing and sale of 'Pacharanga' pickles and handloom products, shops of which attract attention on all major roads of the city. Some people are also in the business of supplying milk and other goods of daily use to Delhi. Shops of stationers and news-paper sellers are also found located near the bus stands in towns as well as in the villages of the district.

DOMESTIC SERVICE

The domestic services are those services which are performed by persons other than the family members and include services of cooks, servants, maidservants and part-time helpers for house hold jobs. Servants are mainly young boys/women who are employed by the rich families in the towns. They are engaged in cooking work, cleaning of utensils and clothes and works of

other domestic help. These servants are not easily available as they usually come from distant areas of neighbouring States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and from the adjoining country of Nepal. These servants are paid salary on monthly basis at the rate of ₹2500 to ₹3000 per month along with food and clothing. But some persons those who do the work of washing of clothes, cleaning of utensils, sweeping of houses are paid only ₹300 to ₹500 per month per service. In rural areas most women do their own domestic chores.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

The transport plays an important role in the social and economic life of the people. These services include persons who work on various transport vehicles like buses, trucks, tractors, boats and all those who drive taxis, tempos, auto-rickshaws, rickshaws, bullock-carts, etc. After the independence, the transport services have considerably increased specially after the state Governments plan to link all the villages with metalled roads. Rickshaws ply in urban and semi urban areas and provide cheaper means of communication. Auto-rickshaws and Taxis being a little faster are catering to needs of transport of people of rural areas also. For the carriage of goods, handcarts and animal driven carts are used where the load is light and the distance is short. However, for heavy loads and longer distances the services of motorized vehicles and goods transport companies are utilized. For transporting goods through Yamuna, ferry services are also available in the district.

Notes and References

¹ <http://panipatbar.org.in> - Official website of the District Bar Association Panipat.