

## CHAPTER IX

### ECONOMIC TRENDS

#### LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

The people in this district earn their livelihood by working in either the agricultural or the non-agricultural sphere. According to the census of 1951, those belonging to the former category comprised owner-cultivators, tenant-cultivators, cultivating labourers and non-cultivating owners of land (including agricultural rent receivers) and dependants of all these four classes. Those of the latter category are employed in production (other than cultivation), industry, commerce, transport and other services. The statement below shows the percentages of the population engaged in these two categories (according to the census of 1951) :

Livelihood category	District	Rural	Urban
Agricultural Owner-cultivators and their dependants ..	73.8	78.7	13.0
Tenant-cultivators and their dependants .. ..	5.9	6.3	2.1
Cultivating labourers and their dependants .. ..	2.6	2.8	0.4
Non-cultivating owners of land and their dependants ; agricultural rent receivers and their dependants ..	1.6	1.6	2.2
Total ..	83.9	89.4	17.7
 Non-agricultural—			
Production (other than cultivation) .. ..	5.9	4.1	20.2
Commerce .. .. .	2.9	1.5	20.4
Transport .. .. .	0.4	0.2	2.9
Other services and miscellaneous sources .. ..	7.4	4.8	38.8
Total ..	16.1	10.6	82.3

Of the total population of the district 59.6 per cent comprises of non-earning dependants. The percentage of non-earning dependants of the agricultural population is 59.5 and that of the non-agricultural population 60.2. Non-earning dependants are mostly women and children. The earning dependants form 7.9 per cent of the total population, 8.6 per cent of the agriculturists and 4.3 per cent of the non-agriculturists. The remaining 32.5 per cent of the total population of the district is made up of self-supporting persons, their proportion among agriculturists being 31.9 per cent

and that among non-agriculturists 35.5 per cent. On an average a self-supporting person maintains two non-earning dependants. A distribution of 10,000 self-supporting persons of the non-agricultural occupations classified according to various economic divisions is as follows :

Economic divisions	Persons
All industries and services .. .. .	10,000
Mining and quarrying .. .. .	20
Processing and manufacture of metals, chemicals and products thereof .. .. .	147
Construction and utilities .. .. .	193
Primary industries, not elsewhere specified .. .. .	222
Transport, storage and communication .. .. .	270
Processing and manufacture, not elsewhere specified .. .. .	701
Health, education and public administration .. .. .	762
Commerce .. .. .	1,588
Processing and manufacture of food-stuffs, textiles, leather and products thereof .. .. .	2,337
Services not elsewhere specified .. .. .	3,760

#### GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

##### Prices

For the period prior to 1856 no authentic records of the prices of food-grains as they obtained in the district are available. After the annexation (which took place in 1856) prices generally rose. From 1861 to 1865 the average price of wheat was 30.1 seers for a rupee but during the following ten years it was 23.0 seers, the increase being due to the abnormal price of wheat in 1866 and in 1869 when the harvests were poor. From 1861 to 1870 barley averaged 38 seers, *juar* (millet) 34.4 seers, gram 28.3 seers and rice 18.3 seers for a rupee. The last year of low prices was 1876 when wheat averaged thirty-two seers for the rupee, a figure far in excess of the maximum attained in any subsequent year. From 1877 to 1881 prices soared owing to scarcity at the beginning and the average for wheat was only nineteen seers per rupee. The next five years saw a marked fall, wheat averaging 22.85 seers, but after 1886 a pronounced rise set in again. From 1891 to 1900, except for the abnormal seasons of 1896 and 1897, the averages were about 15 seers for wheat, 23.53 seers for barley, 21.43 seers for *juar*, 21.45 seers for gram and 13 seers for rice. The rising trend was less evident in the case of coarse grains which constituted the bulk of the food of the people. The prices of the cheapest varieties of grains, such as *kodon* and *sawan* (both coarse grains) were not recorded but they also registered a considerable rise. During 1896 and 1897 prices rose to unprecedented height, the climax being reached about the middle of January, 1897, when wheat was sold at 8 seers for a rupee and maize and *juar* at 10.5 seers a rupee. The prices then were at a far higher level than those reached during the decade following the annexation and the rise was generally considered to be permanent, temporary variations depending upon the quality of the harvests. The reasons for this rise in prices were said

