GROWTH PATTERN OF SMALL TOWNS
Small towns in Tamil Nadu have depicted diversified pattern of population grown over a period of time. They also vary considerably among themselves in terms of their infrastructural development. Urbanity Index gives an idea of the structural facilities. A combination of urbanity index and rate of growth may be able to throw some light on the inner dynamics operating to produce high rate of growth of population with or without urban infrastructural development. On the contrary, low growth rate with or without infrastructural development may also supplement the reasoning for the associated factors.

With this in mind, the researcher carried out case studies of a little more than one tenth of the small towns. On the basis of a two stage stratified random sampling, by which towns were stratified into 4 categories and in view of balanced representation and time and resource constraints, a quota of 8 for each category was fixed. These towns were subsequently selected by using random sampling technique. Fig No:2 gives spatial distribution of small towns taken up for case study.
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A) TOWNS WITH HIGH URBANITY INDEX AND HIGH RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION

Towns which have recorded high rate of growth of population and high urban infrastructural facilities were 86. The eight sample towns are 1. Annadanapatti, 2. Alagapuram, 3. Meyyanur, 4. Ariyamangalam, 5. Mandapam, 6. Sittalapakkam, 7. Kavundampalayam, and 8. Aravankadu. A chordite factory is at Aravankadu, which is a protected area. The researcher was not granted permission to do field-work from the authorities at Arvankadu. So, the field work was carried out in the remaining seven towns only. The individual cases are briefly reported below:

1. ANNADANAPATTI:

Annadanapatti is a class-IV town in Salem district. It forms a part of Salem urban agglomeration. Since 1971, this town has been treated as an urban area. The urban area of this town remains the same as 3.53 square kilometres from 1971 census onwards. The town is located about 3 kilometres north of Salem city. The total population of this town according to the 1961 census was 1275 persons. It had increased to
7,481 persons in 1971 with a decennial growth rate of 486.75 per cent. Thadagapatti village with an area of 1.86 square kilometres was included in the year 1971 in Annadanapatti. This Thadagapatti village had a population of 1,005 persons in 1961. The actual rate of growth of population of Annadanapatti of 1971, for the period 1961-'71 has to take Thadagapatti also into consideration. Therefore, this territorial change and the population involved has to be taken into account. In 1961 of Thadagapatti and Annadanapatti together, had 2080 persons (1005 persons + 1275 persons). The actual rate of growth works out to 185.75 per cent only. Even this is a spectacular growth. In the subsequent decade there was no territorial change. According to 1981 census, this town had a total population of 12,478. The population growth during 1971-'81 is 66.80 per cent. The rate of growth of population of this town during 1971-'81 decade is higher than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth (17.50 per cent) and Tamil Nadu's urban population growth (27.58 per cent). This is markedly higher than the rate of growth of class-I cities and even metropolitan cities.

The number of occupied residential households had increased from 1681 in 1971 to 2953 in 1981. The total number
of households in this town had increased from 538 in 1961 to 1681 in 1971 and 2961 in 1981.

According to 1961 census, there were 527 persons belonging to scheduled castes. This had increased to 795 persons in 1971, a growth of 50.85 per cent which is higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 1131 persons belonging to scheduled castes. During 1971-'81 period, the scheduled castes had increased at the rate of 42.26 per cent which is higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent). The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 77.41 in 1971 and 57.62 in 1981. This town had no scheduled tribe population in 1961 and 1971 censuses. According to 1981 census, the town had 18 scheduled tribe population.

The literate and educated persons in this town had shown a sharp increase over the years. There were only 224 educated persons in 1961. And this category had increased
to 2191 persons in 1971, a growth of 878.12 per cent, which is comparatively very higher than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). The literate persons in this town again increased to 5171 persons in 1981, a growth rate of 136.01 per cent which is again higher than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu and in the urban centres in Tamil Nadu. Since this town had attracted a large number of migrants, it may be due to proportionately higher per cent of literacy among the migrants.

Regarding the working population of this town, according to 1961 census, there were only 1228 workers in this town. This category had increased to 2,479 workers in 1971 and 4779 workers in 1981 census. During 1961-'71 decade, this category had increased at the rate of 101.87 per cent and during 1971-'81 decade, it had increased at the rate of 92.78 per cent. This category had shown a very high rate of growth than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu in both the periods.

According to 1961 census, this town had 471 workers under cultivators category. This had decreased to 145 workers in and in 1981, it again increased to 261 workers. The agricultural
labourers category had increased from 249 workers in 1961 to 355 persons in 1971, a growth of 42.57 per cent which is comparatively less than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu (58.75 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (99.39 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 532 persons belonging to agricultural labourers category. During 1971-'81, the agricultural labourers had increased at the rate of 49.86 per cent which is slightly higher than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu.

In the case of manufacturing at household industries category, this town had only 59 persons in 1961. It had increased to 126 persons in 1971, a growth of 113.56 per cent which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (44.49 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (-29.17 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 499 workers under this category. During 1971-'81 period, this category had a growth rate of 296.03 per cent which is again higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (34.09 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (35.29 per cent). The main household manufacturing industry in this town is handloom weaving. They manufacture dhoties and towels.
The manufacturing industry other than household industry category had only 196 persons in 1961. In 1971, census, it had increased to 791 persons, a growth rate of 303.57 per cent which is comparatively very high than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu. During this period 6 sago factories and 3 starch factories were started in this town. These industries had attracted many families from neighbouring villages. During this period around 100 families had migrated to this town from Attur and Rasipuram taluks. Also, about 50 families had migrated to this town to work in manganese, boxite and dolomite factories located in Salem city.

As the town started growing many people from Salem city had constructed their own houses in this town for want of space, free from congestion, etc. In this way the number of workers in other categories like construction, trade and commerce, and transport and communication have also increased. According to 1961 census, this town had only 5 persons under construction category and it had increased to 92 persons in 1971. According to 1961 census, this town had 15 workers under trade and commerce category and it had increased to 320 workers in 1971. The workers under transport and communication had
steadily increased from only 7 workers in 1961 to 420 workers in 1971. In 1961, the predominant economic function of this town was agriculture, and it became a manufacturing town in 1971.

According to 1961 and 1971 censuses, 208 persons belonged to other services category. According to 1981 census, the town had 3487 persons under other workers category and 151 persons under marginal workers category. The non-workers category in this town had steadily increased from 1052 persons in 1961 to 5002 persons and 7548 persons in 1971 and 1981 census respectively.

With regard to commercial and industrial establishments, the town has 6 sago factories and 5 starch manufacturing industries. Also there are 6 power looms. The town has 15 provisional stores, 20 petty shops, 15 tea stalls, 4 hotels, 5 cloth stores, 10 tailoring shops, 3 paint and hardware shops, 8 automobile spare parts dealers, 10 automobile workshops, 3 welding and lathe works, 3 medical stores, 3 fertilizer and pesticides shops and 10 cycle repairing shops.

Regarding the protected water supply scheme, the town has one over head tank with 25,000 litres capacity. Water is being supplied to the public through 1250 individual house
connections and 30 public fountains. Also about 20 borewells with hand pumps were provided in various parts of this town.

With regard to educational institutions, the town has only one municipal elementary school. Also there are 3 privately managed nursery schools. The students go to Salem city for high school, higher secondary and college level education. The town also has 2 short-hand-cum typewriting institutes.

There is a primary health centre equipped with 8 beds in this town. People of this town avail the medical facilities available at district headquarters hospital at Salem. There are 3 private nursing homes with in-patient facilities and 5 private clinics with out-patient facilities in this town.

As far as this town is concerned, previously it was an agricultural town with traditional activities like hand-loom weaving. As the Salem city had started its expansion, many new factories came to established in this town. New houses were constructed. As this town forms part of Salem urban agglomeration, the people also started moving away from the Salem city. In this way, this town is still growing at a comparatively faster rate.
2. ALAGAPURAM

Alagapuram town is a class-IV town and it forms a part of Salem Urban Agglomeration. Salem is the taluk as well as district headquarters for this town and is about 3 kilometres north west from Salem. Since 1971, Alagapuram has been treated as an urban area. The total urban area of this town remains the same as 8.53 square kilometres from 1971 census onwards. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 4873 persons. It had increased to 6093 persons in 1971 with a decennial growth rate of 25.04 per cent which is higher than the general population growth rate of Tamil Nadu (22.30 per cent) but lower than the urban population growth rate of Tamil Nadu (38.64 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, the population of this town had increased to 10,474 persons with a growth rate of 71.90 per cent. This is markedly higher than the rate of growth of class-I cities and even metropolitan cities.

The total number of occupied residential households had nearly doubled from 1042 in 1971 to 2,074 households in 1981. The total number households had also increased from 922 households in 1961 to 1147 households, and 2075 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The scheduled caste population in this town had
increased from 896 persons in 1961 to 1129 persons in 1971, an increase of 26.00 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu, but lower than the growth of scheduled caste population in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu. In 1981, the scheduled caste population in this town sharply increased to 2159 person, with a decennial growth rate of 91.23 per cent which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu and in urban areas of Tamil Nadu. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to 94.11 in 1971 and 84.71 in 1981. This town had no scheduled tribe population at all.

The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 1607 persons in 1961 and 2882 persons in 1971 and 6479 persons in 1981. The rate of growth of literate persons in this town works out to 79.34 per cent and 124.81 per cent during 1961-'71 decade and 1971-'81 decade respectively, which is higher than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu as well as in urban areas of Tamil Nadu in both the periods.

With regard to working population in this town, the town had 1791 workers in 1961, 1758 workers in 1971 and
3317 workers according to 1981 census. The rate of growth of working population in this town during 1961-'71 was -1.84 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and lesser than the rate of growth of working population in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). During 1971-'81 period, the working population in this town had grown at a rate of 88.68 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent), as well as in urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent) during the same period. In the case of workers under cultivators category, this town had 441 workers under this category in 1961 and 212 workers and 231 workers in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. During 1961-'71 period, the rate of growth of cultivators works out to -51.92 per cent which is comparatively lesser than the rate of growth of cultivators category in Tamil Nadu (-28.65 per cent) and in urban areas of Tamil Nadu (-10.82 per cent). The 1971-'81 period recorded a growth of 8.96 per cent in this category, which is lesser than the rate of growth of cultivators in Tamil Nadu (20.65 per cent) and slightly higher than the rate of growth of cultivators in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (2.51 per cent) during the same period.
In the case of workers under agricultural labourers category, the town had 83 workers in 1961 and it had increased to 361 and 349 workers in 1971 and 1981 censuses. The workers under this category had a growth rate of 334.94 per cent during 1961-'71 period, which is comparatively very higher than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu State (58.75 per cent) and in urban areas of Tamil Nadu (99.39 per cent). But during 1971-'81 period this category had increased only at the rate of -3.32 per cent which is comparatively lesser than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (26.10 per cent). After 1970, many agricultural lands had been converted into housing site and many new houses were constructed and hence the agricultural sector has not flourished over the years.

In the case of manufacturing at household industry category, the town had only 14 persons in 1961 as well as in 1971 censuses. And this had increased to 42 persons according to 1981 census. This category had increased at the rate of 200 per cent during 1971-'81 period which is higher than the rate of growth of workers in this category in Tamil Nadu (34.09 per cent) as well as in urban areas of Tamil Nadu (35.29 per cent) during the same period.
The workers under trade and commerce had increased from 163 persons in 1961 to 286 persons in 1971. This category had increased at the rate of 75.46 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (52.21 per cent) and in urban areas of Tamil Nadu (65.08 per cent).

The workers under transport and communication category in this town had increased from 65 persons in 1961 to 103 persons in 1961, a growth of 58.46 per cent, which is lesser than the growth rate of workers in this category in Tamil Nadu (83.62 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (85.47 per cent).

The workers engaged in other services category decreased from 523 persons in 1961 to 359 persons in 1971, a growth rate of -31.36 per cent. According to 1981 census, this town had 2695 workers under other workers category and it had only 19 workers under marginal workers category.

With regard to its predominant function, this town was a service town in 1961 and it became a manufacturing town in 1971. During 1960's coir making, manufacturing of bamboo baskets and mats are some of the small scale occupations
and many persons were engaged in this occupation. During 1965, 2 sago factories were started in this town. Later in 1969, two more sago factories and one starch factory came to be established. Now, this town has 5 sago factories and 2 starch factories. These factories attracted many people and around 75 families had migrated to this town.

With regard to commercial institutions, this town has 15 petty shops, 10 provisional stores, 3 cloth stores, 10 tea stalls, 4 hotels and 2 medical stores. This town also has 3 automobile spare parts merchants, 6 automobile workshops, 2 welding and lathe works and 3 radio repairing centres. And, there are 5 cycle repairing shops in this town.

Regarding the protected water supply scheme, the town has a ground level reservoir with 20,00,000 litres capacity and an overhead tank with 30,000 litres capacity. Water is being supplied throughout this town through 800 individual house connections and 30 public fountains situated at various parts of this town. Also this town has 10 borewells fitted with hand pumps.

With regard to educational institutions, this town has only one municipal elementary school besides 2 private
nursery schools. Since, Meyyanur town is adjacent to this town, students from this town avail the higher educational facilities available at Meyyanur or at Salem which is at a distance of 3 kms only from this town. Similarly, the town does not have any primary health centre or a government hospital. However, there are 3 consulting clinics and 2 private nursing homes in this town.

As Salem city had started growing, this town also started expanding in size. Many new housing colonies were established in this town during the year 1972. In 1973, around 150 new houses were constructed and around 125 families had occupied these houses. Later new houses were constructed and new migrants came to occupy these houses. This is a continuing story and this town is still receiving new entrants.

3. MEYYANUR

Meyyanur is in Salem district and Salem is also the taluk headquarters. Since, 1971 census, the town has been treated as an urban area. It is a class-V town and this town forms a part of Salem urban agglomeration. The total urban area of this town remains the same as 1.25 square kilometres from 1961 census onwards. The total population of this town, according to 1961 was 2,561 persons. It had increased to 3,998
persons in 1971 with a growth rate of 56.11 per cent which is comparatively higher than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth (22.30 per cent) and the Tamil Nadu's urban population growth (38.64 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, the population in this town sharply increased to 7,375 persons with a decennial growth rate of 84.47 per cent which is again higher than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates.

The total number of occupied residential houses had increased from 691 houses in 1971 to 1747 houses in 1981. The total number of households had also increased from 541 in 1961 to 697 and 1747 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The scheduled caste population of this town was 130 persons in 1961. The same was 126 persons in 1971, a growth of -3.17 per cent during 1961-'71 period, which is very less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.56 per cent) and in urban areas of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent) during the same period. The scheduled caste population in this town further decreased to 111 persons according to 1981 census. The town had no scheduled tribe population at on. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes works out to 58.12 in 1971 and 55.37 in 1981.
The educated and literate persons in this town shows a sharp increase. The literate population of this town had increased from 447 persons in 1961 to 1351 persons in 1971, a growth of 202.24 per cent during 1961-'71 period, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during the same period. The literate persons in this town again increased to 4,129 persons in 1981, a decennial growth rate of 205.63 per cent, which is again higher than the growth rate of educated persons in Tamil Nadu (39.25 persons) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent) during the same period.

Regarding the working population of this town, this category had shown an increasing trend over the decades. The town had only 982 workers according to 1961 census. In 1971 and 1981 censuses, this category had increased to 1,336 persons and 2,483 persons respectively. During 1961-'71 period, the total workers in this town had a growth rate of 36.05 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). Similarly, the rate of growth of workers in this town during 1971-'81 period is 85.85 per cent, which
is again higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent).

The agricultural sector in this town had shown no signs of improvement over the decades. There were 154 cultivators in this town in 1961. It became 137 persons in 1971. According to 1981, there were only 46 cultivators in this town. There were 27 agricultural labourers in 1961 and 1971 censuses, and only 11 persons, according to 1981 census.

This town is very near to Salem city, about only 4 kms from the Salem city. This town is located along the roads which proceed to Erode, Dharmapuri, Bangalore and Attoor. As the Salem city started its expansion in size, many housing units, industries, manufacturing establishments had also come to be established in this town. The manufacturing sector in the household industry had increased from 15 persons in 1961 to 31 persons in 1971, a growth of 106.67 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (44.49 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (-29.17 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 107 workers under manufacturing at household industries. During 1971-81 period, this category had a growth rate of 245.16 per cent, which is higher than the growth rate of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (34.09 per cent).
and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (35.29 per cent).

The manufacturing category—other than household industry had shown a slight increase from 278 persons in 1961 to 338 persons in 1971, a growth of 21.58 per cent which is comparatively lesser than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (53.53 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (47.99 per cent).

The workers under construction category had increased from 139 persons in 1961 to 186 persons in 1971, a growth of 33.81 per cent, which is slightly higher than the growth of workers under construction in the state (14.08 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (25.53 per cent).

According to 1961 census, this town had 118 workers under trade and commerce category and it had increased to 193 persons in 1971. The rate of growth of workers under trade and commerce in this town (63.56 per cent) during 1961-'71 period is higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in the state (52.21 per cent) and lesser than the rate of growth of workers in this category in the urban centres.
of Tamil Nadu (65.08 per cent). The transport and communication category had sharply increased from 37 persons in 1961 to 229 persons in 1971, a growth of 516.22 per cent.

The other services category had shown a slight decrease from 206 persons in 1961 to 193 persons in 1971. According to 1981 census, the town had 2,319 other workers and 98 marginal workers. With regard to its predominant economic function, this town was a manufacturing town in 1961 as well as in 1971 censuses. The non-workers in this town had steadily increased from 1579 persons in 1961 to 2662 persons and 4,794 persons according to 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

In this town, as many as 6 sago factories had been started in the year 1972. Also there are 3 starch manufacturing factories in this town. As the Salem city started expanding, this town also started growing. Many new housing colonies came into existence on both the sides of the road leading to Salem central bus stand. Similarly new automobile industries had also been started in this town. In this way, about 150 families had migrated to this town.

The town has 10 provisional stores, 25 tea stalls, 20 hotels, 10 bakeries, 20 fruit stalls, 5 cycle shops and 10
automobiles workshops. The town also has 25 petty shops, 2 medical stores and 10 automobile spare parts dealers.

This town has an overhead tank of 30,000 litres capacity. Water is being supplied through 750 house connections and 25 public fountains. Also there are as many as 25 borewell pumps at various parts of the town.

The town does not have any public hospitals or primary health centres. Since, Salem city is only at a distance of 4 kms from this town, and the people avail the facilities available at the district headquarters hospital. Besides this, there are 5 private hospitals in this town. Also, there are about 10 private clinics with out-patient facility.

With regard to educational institutions, the town has one municipal higher secondary school, one municipal high school and a municipal elementary school. Also, there are 10 nursery schools managed by private managements.

In the year 1989, the municipal authorities had shifted the bus stand from Salem to this town. It is because of this also, many commercial establishments like tea-stalls, hotels, bakeries, fruit stalls, cool-drinks stalls had been started in this town. As a result, the town is experiencing further
rapid growth. In the near future it is expected to diversity its activities.

4. ARIYAMANGALAM

Ariyamangalam town is in Tiruchi district and Tiruchi is its taluk headquarters. This town is a class-IV town according to 1981 census and since 1971 census this town has been treated as an urban area. Ariyamangalam town constitutes a part of the Tiruchirappalli urban agglomeration. The town had a population of 5472 persons according to 1961 census. This had increased to 12,496 persons in 1971 with a decennial population growth rate of 128.36 per cent. The decennial population growth rate of the town during 1961-'71 period is higher than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth rate and urban population growth rate during the same period (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). The total population of this town according to 1981 census was 19,236 persons. The population growth rate of this town during 1971-'81 decade was 53.94 per cent which is again higher than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates during the same decade (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively). The total urban area of this town was 7.99 square kilometres in 1961 and it remained the same in 1971 and 1981 censuses.
The total number of occupied residential houses had increased from 2,961 in 1971 to 4,361 houses in 1981. The total number of households had increased from 1,311 in 1961 to 3,093 and 4,380 households according to 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

According to 1961 and 1971 censuses, this town had only 886 scheduled caste persons, and in 1981, this had increased to 1,369 persons, a growth of 54.52 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the growth of scheduled caste persons in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban area of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent) during 1971-'81 period. This town had just 16 scheduled tribes in 1981 census only and previously this town had no scheduled tribe population. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to 65.70 in 1971 and 60.69 in 1981.

Regarding the literates and educated persons, from 2,499 educated persons in 1961 had increased to 6,925 persons and 12,180 persons in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The rate of growth of educated persons is comparatively higher than that of in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas in both 1961-'71 and 1971-'81 periods.
With regard to working population in this town, this town had 2,067 workers according to 1961 census. This had increased to 3,887 workers in 1971, a growth of 88.05 per cent, which is higher than the growth of total workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). The total workers in this town according to 1981 census is 6013 persons. The rate of growth of total workers during 1971-’81 period is again higher than the rate of growth of total workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent) during the same period.

The workers under cultivators category had shown a declining trend from 186 persons in 1961 to 144 persons in 1971, a growth of -22.58 per cent, which is slightly lesser than the growth of cultivators in Tamil Nadu (-28.65 per cent) and higher than the growth of cultivators in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (-10.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 120 workers under this category. During 1971-’81 period, the rate of growth of cultivators in this town is -16.67 per cent, which is comparatively very lesser than the growth of cultivators in the state ((20.65 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (2.41 per cent) during the same period.
On the other hand the agricultural labourers category had shown an increasing trend. This category had increased from 182 workers in 1961 to 524 workers in 1971 and 749 workers in 1981 censuses. The rate of growth of agricultural labourers in this town during 1961-'71 and 1971-'81 periods (296.96 per cent and 42.94 per cent respectively) are comparatively higher than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu in both the periods. Even though, there is very little cultivable land in and around this town, there is an increasing trend among the agricultural labourers category because, many labourers in this town work in other places but they have settled down in this town.

The manufacturing sector both under household and other than household industry category had shown an increasing trend over the decades. The manufacturing industry at household category had 47 workers in 1961. This had increased in 147 workers and 308 workers in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The rate of growth of workers in this category during 1961-'71 period was 212.77 per cent and during 1971-'81 period was 109.52 per cent. The rate of growth of workers under this category
is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu in both the decades.

The manufacturing industry other than household industry had nearly doubled from 729 workers in 1961 to 1554 workers in 1971, a growth of 113.17 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (53.53 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (47.99 per cent) during the same period. A big public sector company namely Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in Tiruverambur is very nearer to this town. The seamless steel tube plant which is an ancillary unit of high pressure Boiler plant was also started subsequently. Also, as many as 12 lathe and welding works, 8 rice and flour mills, and 4 aluminium vessel manufacturing industries were also started in this town. It is due to the above said reasons, this town experienced a net in-migration of about 1,000 families during the decade 1961-’71. And new housing colonies had also started growing in this town.

With regard to the workers engaged in trade and commerce, according to 1961 census there were 213 workers and
it had increased to 709 workers in 1971, a growth of 232.86 per cent which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (52.21 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (63.08 per cent) during the same period.

Similarly, this town had 94 workers under transport and communication category according to 1961 census. In 1971 this had increased to 318 workers, a growth of 238.29 per cent which is comparatively higher than the growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (83.62 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (85.47 per cent) during the same period.

The workers under other services had shown a declining trend from 612 workers in 1961 to 379 workers in 1971, a growth of -38.07 per cent. According to 1981 census, there were 4836 workers under other workers category and 72 under marginal workers category. The non-workers in this town had increased from 3,405 persons in 1961 to 8609 and 13,151 persons according to 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The predominant economic function of this town according to both 1961 and 1971 censuses was manufacturing.
With regard to commercial institutions this town has 19 provisional stores, 6 petty shops, 11 tea stalls, 3 small hotels, 2 biscuit bakeries. There are 2 cloth stores and 5 tailoring shops and 2 medical stores in this town. Regarding industrial establishments, this town has 12 welding the lathe works, 8 rice and flour mills, 2 oil mills, 4 aluminium utensils manufacturing industries, 1 soap manufacturing unit, 2 match factories, 5 cycle repairing shop, 3 two wheeler and automobile workshops.

There is no government hospitals or primary health centres in this town. But, there are 3 private nursing homes and 4 private medical practitioners' clinics. Regarding the drinking water supply, protected water is being pumped from the Cauvery river and stored in 7 overhead towns of 2,500 Gallons capacity each at various parts of this town. Water is being supplied to the public through 120 individual house connections and 24 public fountains. Beside these, there are as many as 23 open wells and 47 borewell pumps and all of them were equipped with hand pumps.

Regarding educational institutions, this town has one higher secondary school one high school 2 primary schools. In addition to these government schools, there are as many as 7 private English-medium nursery schools in this town.
Proximity to Trichy city which is only 6 kms from this town, frequent network of transportation, low-land value when compared to Tiruchi city and the availability of good drinking water are some of the factors that facilitated the growth of this town. Many families with their work places or business at Tiruchi migrated to and settled down in this town and hence this town growing comparatively at a faster growth rate.

5. MANDAPAM

Mandapam is a class-IV town according to 1981 census, and Ramanathapuram is the district as well as taluk headquarters for this town. This town is at a distance of 35 kilometers east from Ramanathapuram. The total urban area of this town was 21.16 square kilometer from 1961 census onwards. The total population of this town had increased from 6,257 persons in 1961 to 8117 in 1971, with a decennial population growth rate of 29.73 per cent, which is higher than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth rate and lesser than the Tamil Nadu's urban population growth rate during the same period (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 14,086 persons and the population growth rate of this town during the decade 1971-'81.
was 82.41 per cent which is comparatively higher than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth rate (17.50 per cent) and urban population growth rate (27.58 per cent) during the same decade.

The total number of occupied residential houses and the total number of households in this town had shown an increasing trend over the decades. The total number of occupied residential houses had increased from 1261 houses in 1961 to 1605 and 2663 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. In the case of the number of households, this town had 1321 households in 1961 and it had increased to 1,682 and 2909 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

This town had 585 persons belonging to scheduled castes in 1961. This had decreased to 554 persons in 1971 a negative growth (-5.29 per cent) when the rate of growth of scheduled castes in Tamil Nadu was 20.57 per cent and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent) during 1961-71 period. This may be due to the absence of agricultural work and demand for unskilled manual labour in this town at that time. In 1981, the scheduled caste population in this town had increased to 1360 persons, a growth of 145.49 per cent during
1971-'81 period, which is higher than the growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.42 per cent). Between 1971 and 1981, new industries have come up increasing the employment opportunities, specially for scheduled caste. There were only 7 persons belonging to scheduled tribes in 1971 and it had slightly increased to 10 persons in 1981. The residential segregation index of scheduled caste population in this town works out to 49.21 in 1971 and it had increased to 60.47 in 1981.

The educated and literate population had increased from 2764 persons in 1961 to 4015 persons in 1971, a growth of 45.26 per cent which is less when compared the growth of literate person in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during 1961-'71 period. In 1981, this town had 7897 educated and literate persons. During 1971-'81 period, the educated person had grown at the rate of 96.69 per cent which is higher than the growth of educated person in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent) during the same period. Since it has attracted a large number of migrants during this decade it may be due to proportionately higher percentage of literacy among the migrants.
The total number of workers in this town had increased from 1876 persons in 1961 to 2192 persons in 1971 census, a growth of 16.84 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of total workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and lesser than the rate of growth total workers in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 3766 workers. During 1971- '81 period this category had increased at the rate of 71.81 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of total workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent).

The workers under cultivators category had decreased from 12 workers in 1961 to 7 in 1971. The cultivators category again increased to 89 persons in 1981. In the case of agricultural labourers category the workers under this category had increased from 6 workers in 1961 to 13 workers in 1981. According to the 1981 census, there were only 11 workers under this category. Mandapam area in Ramanathapuram District is particularly deficient in rainfall. There are no major rivers providing perennial water supply for cultivation in this area. At times of heavy rainfall, the tanks in this area get filled up and these tanks
are very much helpful for the farmers in this area. Even though the farmers in this area cultivate crops like coconut and Jasmine, the agricultural sector had not attracted more workers because of poor rainfall and scarcity of water supply for cultivation.

This town had 645 workers under the livestock, forestry and fishing category, according 1971 census. Since this town is on the coastal line, there are many workers under this category. The Indo-Norwegian Fishing Project has been established at Mandapam for implementing various schemes for fisheries development. To preserve the fish to get good market and price, ice and refrigeration units are established in Mandapam. The union government has also established a Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute at Mandapam for the development of sea fishing. This institute carries out the research in various fields like fishery, biology, fishery survey, marine biology and general physiology.

The workers under manufacturing at household category had declined from 183 workers in 1961 to 19 in 1971 and 28 workers in 1981. During the 1961-'71 period, this category had shown a decline of -89.62 per cent which is comparatively lesser
than the rate of growth of workers in this category in Tamil Nadu (44.49 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (-29.17 per cent). But in 1971-'81 period this category had increased at a higher rate of growth than the rate of growth in the case of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu and urban areas of Tamil Nadu.

The workers under manufacturing - other than household industry had also decreased from 224 workers in 1961 to 86 workers according to 1971 census, a decline of -61.61 per cent which is comparatively less than the growth rate of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (53.53 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (47.99 per cent).

The workers under the trade and commerce had increased from 129 workers in 1961 to 307 in 1971, a growth rate of 137.98 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of workers in this category in Tamil Nadu (52.21 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (65.08 per cent).

The workers engaged in transport and communication had decreased from 598 workers in 1961 to 355 in 1971 census, a decline of -40.63 per cent which is very less than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (83.62
per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (85.47 per cent). The workers that come under other services category had increased from 598 workers in 1961 to 713 in 1971. According to 1981 census, there were 3649 workers under other services category and 331 marginal workers. On the basis of the predominant economic function of this town, this town was a manufacturing town in 1961 census as well as in 1971 census.

Regarding the protected water supply in this town, there is an overhead tank with 1,00,000 litres capacity. In addition to it, there are 5 bore well pumps fitted with hand pumps. Water is being supplied throughout this town by means of 750 individual house connection and 30 public fountains.

Mandapam town has a government hospital with 25 beds capacity and a government dispensary. There are two private nursing homes and 5 consulting clinics in this town. Mandapam town have 5 medical stores also. For the treatment of major diseases, the people seek medical facilities available at the district headquarters hospital at Ramanathapuram, which is about 35 kilometres from this town.

Regarding the educational institution, this town has 1 government higher secondary school, one government high
school and two government elementary schools. Besides the students from this town, students from the surrounding villages of Mandapam town also utilize the facilities.

With regard to commercial institutions, Mandapam town has 25 petty shops, 17 provisional stores, 5 medical stores, 17 hotels, 20 tea stalls, 5 cloth-tailoring shops, 3 biscuit bakeries, 5 fruit stalls, and 12 cycle repairing shops. Since this town is situated on the coastal line and the main occupation of this town is fishing, there are 8 shops dealing with nylon fishing nets, motor boat spare parts, etc. There are 6 ice and refrigeration units in this town. There are 8 automobile and motor boat repairing and service centres in this town.

The famous Rameshwaram Temple, mentioned in the epic Ramayana and later in Tamil Puranas is about 15 kilometres from this town (the nearest place on the main land). Rameshwaram is a sacred place for Hindus and it is as famous as Varanashi in the northern India. Rameshwaram is an Island and Mandpam and Rameshwaram are linked by rail. It is the Pamban canal which separates it from the main land. Thus, tourists coming from the various parts of the state and also from the various states in India to Rameshwaram by road network has to stop
at Mandapam town to catch the rail network. It is because of this, many commercial establishments came to be established in this town like tea stalls, hotels, shops dealing with the ornaments made from sea products, etc.

Thus during the 1960's and 1979's as many as 250 to 300 families were migrated from various parts to this town. And it is due to the establishment of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, ice and refrigeration units and sea foods exporting companies in this town, as many as 100 to 150 families migrated to this town. Now, after the construction of the Pamban bridge, Rameshwaram Temple is also connected by road network, and the visitors to Rameshwaram can reach the temple by cars and buses also. As a result Mandapam town has lost its importance and many commercial establishment had already started moving towards Rameshwaram Island.

Mandapam town has refugees transit camp, which offers an enormous amount of service to the refugees coming from Sri Lanka during the period of war between Tamils and the Sinhalese. It is from this camp, the refugees will be shifted to other places after registration.
Thus, the Mandapam had experienced a comparatively higher growth rate of population over the decades.

6. SITTALAPAKKAM

Sittalapakkam town is in Saidapet taluk, Madras district. This town forms part of Madras Urban agglomeration. Sittalapakkam is about 16 kilometres from Saidapet and about 24 kilometres from Madras city. Sittalapakkam is a town panchayat and treated for the first time as an urban area in the 1971 census. The total area of this town has been 2.88 square kilometres since 1961. According to 1961 census, the population of this town was 2,013 persons. It increased to 5320 persons in 1971 and 11,718 in 1981. The rate of growth of population of this town during 1961-'71 period was 164.28 per cent and during 1971-'81 decade was 120.26 per cent. This is markedly higher than the rate of growth of class-I cities and even metropolitan cities.

According to 1961 census, the total number of households in the town was only 192. But, it had increased to 1162 in 1971 and 2223 in 1981. According to 1961 census, there were 403 persons belonging to scheduled castes, and it had increased to 820 persons in 1971, a growth of 103.47 per cent which is
markedly higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent). According to 1981 census, the scheduled caste population in this town was 1680 persons. The scheduled caste population in this town had grown at the rate of 104.88 per cent during 1971-'81 decade, which is again markedly higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent). The residential segregation index of scheduled caste population in this town works out to 61.80 in 1971 and 54.80 in 1981.

With regard to literates and educated persons, the town had only 163 literate persons in 1961, which had increased to 3096 persons in 1971, a growth of 1799.39 per cent. According to 1981 census, this town had 8380 literate persons. The rate of growth of literate persons in this town works out to 170.67 per cent during 1971-'81. The rate of growth of literate persons in this town during 1961-'71 period and in the 1971-'81 period is markedly higher than the growth of literate persons in the state and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu in both the periods. Since this town had attracted a large number of migrants, it may be due to proportionately higher percentage of literacy among the migrants.
Regarding the working population of this town, the town had only 372 workers according to 1961 census. It had increased to 1503 in 1971, a growth of 304.03 per cent which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). In 1981, this town had 3415 workers. During 1971-81 decade, the working population of this town had increased at the rate of 127.21 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent).

The cultivators category consists of only 78 persons in 1961. It had decreased to 62 persons in 1971 and further it decreased to 49 persons in 1981 census. Similar trend is observed in the case of agricultural labourers category also.

Only a small proportion of the workers are engaged in manufacturing at household industries and this number remains constant in all the three decades. This category had 8 persons in 1961, 10 persons in 1971 and only 6 persons in 1981 census. But, the workers engaged in manufacturing-other than household industry category had increased from 6 persons in 1961 to 402 persons in 1971.
There were no construction workers in 1961 census, but this category had 84 persons in 1971. Regarding the workers under trade and commerce category, this town had only 13 persons in 1961, which in 1971 had increased to 217 persons. With regard to the workers engaged in transport and communication category, the town had only one person in 1961 and according to 1971 census, the town had 211 persons. The other services category had only 37 persons in 1961, and it had increased to 400 persons in 1971. According to 1981 census, the other services category had 3,252 persons and the marginal workers category consisted of 78 persons. The non-workers category also steadily increased from 370 persons in 1961 to 3,817 in 1971 and 8,225 in 1981. With regard to the predominant economic activity of this town, it was an agricultural town in 1961, and in 1971, it became a manufacturing town.

The protected water supply scheme was implemented by the Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board during the year 1980. The town now has 3 over-head tanks of 30,000 litres capacity each. Water is being supplied through 750 house connections and 44 public fountains. Besides this, the town has 8 open public wells and 25 bore wells fitted with hand pumps for the public convenience.
With regard to educational institutions, the town has one higher secondary school and one primary school. There are 14 private nursery schools. The corporation higher secondary school attracts students from Sempakkam, Selaiyur and Rajakilpakkam besides the students from the Sittalapakkam town.

The famous Tambaram T.B Sanatorium with 1,100 beds is located on the outskirts of this town. Besides this there are 3 private hospitals with limited in patients facility.

Regarding the growth of this town, upto 1961, the town was only an agricultural town with most of the working population engaged in agriculture and its allied activities. During 1965, new housing colonies like Kamakshi colony, Vedanathan colony, were constructed along the eastern sides of G.S.T. Road, The occupants of this colony were the employees of the T.B Sanatorium and Madras Institute of Technology which is very near to this town. During the end of that decade, the Food Corporation of India had constructed a warehouse and godown in this town. In 1975, the T.B Sanatorium was expanded and the government also constructed a government women's service home in this town. New housing colonies like Annanagar, Judge colony, Jothi nagar, Thirumurugan nagar, Kumaran avenue, etc., have been constructed in the interior parts of this town.
Sittalapakkam is well connected with all parts of the Madras city by rail and road. The double-line metre gauge sub-urban electric train service between Tambaram and Madras beach covering a distance of 29 kilometres, in just 30 minutes provides cheaper rapid transport system for the people of this town. One can see a very large number of persons commuting daily from this town to various parts of Madras city for work, education, business, etc, by electric train. Electric train service has played a major role in the growth and development of this town.

7. KAVUNDAMPALAYAM

Kavundampalayam is a class-IV town, according to 1981 census in the Coimbatore taluk. This town was treated as an urban area for the first time in the 1971 census. This town is located at a distance of 8 kilometres from Coimbatore, on Coimbatore-Mettupalayam main road. It forms a part of the Coimbatore urban agglomeration. The total urban area of this town was 8.55 square kilometres right from 1961. The total population had increased from 3035 persons in 1961 to 7062 and 14,554 in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The decennial population growth rate of this town during 1961-’71 decade was 132.69 per cent which is comparatively higher than
the Tamil Nadu's general population growth rate (22.30 per cent) and Tamil Nadu's urban population growth rate (38.64 per cent). Similarly, the population of this town had grown at the rate of 106.09 per cent in the 1971-'81 decade, which is again much higher than the Tamil Nadu's general and urban population growth rate (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively).

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 583 houses in 1961 to 1134 and 3159 in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. Similarly, the total number of households in this town had also increased from 635 in 1961 to 1363 in 1971 and 3160 in 1981. Between 1971 and 1981 considerable number of new houses, have come up in this town.

According to 1961 census, Kavundampalayam town had 532 scheduled caste persons and it had increased to 847 persons in 1971, a growth of 59.21 per cent which is higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 1543
persons belonging to schedules castes. During the 1971-81 period, the scheduled caste persons in this town had grown at the rate of 82.17 per cent which is again comparatively higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent) during the same decade. This town had no persons belonging to scheduled tribes over the years. The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 62.54 in 1971 and 62.03 in 1981.

The literate and educated persons in this town had steadily increased from 872 persons in 1961 to 3,622 in 1971, a growth of 315.37 per cent which is markedly higher than the growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during the same period. According to 1981 census, this town had 8,966 educated and literate persons. The rate of growth of literate persons (147.54 per cent) in this town during 1971-81 period is again markedly higher than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu.

Regarding the working population in this town, the total workers had increased from 1,555 in 1961 to 2555 in 1971.
a growth of 64.31 per cent. According to 1981 census, there were 4788 workers in this town. The rate of growth of workers in this town during 1971-'81 decade is 87.39 per cent, which is comparatively much higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent).

The cultivators category in this town had decreased from 319 persons in 1961 to 251 in 1971 a decline of -21.32 per cent, which is slightly less than the rate of growth of cultivators in Tamil Nadu (-28.65 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (-10.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 131 workers under cultivators category. During 1971-'81, the cultivators category had declined at the rate of -47.81 per cent which is markedly less than the rate of growth of cultivators in Tamil Nadu (20.65 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (2.51 per cent) during the same decade.

On the other hand, the workers classified as agricultural labourers had shown an increasing trend from 94 workers in 1961 to 502 and 896 in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. Eventhough, many of the agricultural lands have been converted into housing colonies, still there are some cultivable lands in
the interior parts of this town. Many of the families belonging to cultivators category had either changed their occupation or became agricultural labourers. These agricultural labourers were able to find employment opportunities in the surrounding villages besides in this town.

The manufacturing at household industry had 184 workers in 1961, 129 in 1971 and 395 in 1981. There had been a sharp increase in the workers classified under manufacturing-other than household industry from 277 workers in 1961 to 686 in 1971, a growth of 147.65 per cent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (53.53 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (47.99 per cent) during the same period. These workers were able to find opportunities in the industries in the neighbouring areas also. There are many manufacturing establishments like lathes, industries oil mills etc.,

the construction category had 9 and 116 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. Since, new housing colonies had started emerging in this area, there is a great demand for construction workers. The trade and commerce category had 47 workers in 1961 and 203 in the 1971 census. Similarly,
the transport and communication category had 29 and 179 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The other services had 541 workers in 1961 and 479 in 1971. According to 1981 census, this town had 3,366 persons under other workers and 31 marginal workers. The non-workers in this town had steadily increased from 1480 persons in 1961 census to 4507 and 9735 in the 1971 and 1981 census respectively. According to 1961 census, Kavundampalayam was a "service town and in 1971, it became a manufacturing town.

Regarding the educational facilities this town has one government high school and one government primary school besides 3 private English-medium nursery schools. For higher secondary and college level education, the students go to Coimbatore. Concerning the medical institutions, this town is provided with a primary health centre. There is one private nursing home and 3 private doctors consulting clinics in this town. There are 4 medical stores in this town. For major medical treatments, the people go either to private nursing homes and hospitals at Coimbatore city or the medical college hospital at Coimbatore.

With regard to drinking water supply this town has 4 open wells, 5 bore wells fitted with hand pumps and an overhead
tank of 35,000 litres capacity. Water supply is being made throughout this town by means of 500 individual house connections and 35 public connections.

There are 28 petty shops, 22 tea stalls, 10 hotels, 15 biscuit bakeries, 15 fruit stalls, 15 provisional stores, 10 fancy stores, 5 household utensils stores, 10 tailoring cum cloth stores, 4 shoe marts and 4 medical stores. There are 12 cycle repairing and spare parts stores, 6 automobile workshops and body building carriages, 5 two-wheeler workshops and 4 automobile spare parts dealers. Also there are 5 saw-mills and 4 fire-wood depots in this town. There are 10 lathe and welding shops, 3 foundaries and 3 oil mills. The Tamil Nadu civil supplies corporation has its godown in this town. The state owned Thiruvalluvar transport corporation has its office and workshop in this town. During the 1970's, the government of Tamil Nadu had constructed many housing units in this town. The state owned Cheran transport corporation has one of its city branches very adjacent to this town. Kavundapalayam town is well connected with city but services. It is because of the above factors mentioned, this town functions as a sub-urban centre of Coimbatore city and is growing at a high rate.
Conclusion:

In this category, 8 towns were identified for intensive field work; they are, 1. Annadanapatti, 2. Alagapuram, 3. Meyyanur, 4. Ariyamangalam, 5. Mandapam, 6. Sittalappakkam, 7. Kavundapalayam and 8. Aravankadu chordite factory (7.5). The field work was carried out in seven towns, and the permission was not granted by the authorities of Aravankadu chordite factory (T.S) to do field work. Among these towns, the first 3 towns form a part of Salem urban agglomeration, the fourth one, namely Ariyamangalam forms a part of Tiruchirappalli urban agglomeration, Sittalapakkam town forms a part of Madras urban agglomeration, Kavundampalayam town forms a part of Coimbatore urban agglomeration. In the first 3 towns namely, Annadanapatti, Alagapuram and Meyyanur that form a part of Salem urban agglomeration, there are many sago and sarch factories. These factories need more space for various processes in the production of starch and sago, and plenty of water. It is due to non-availability of space in the Salem city, these industries were started in the sub-urban areas. In this way, many sago and starch factories were established in these towns because of the availability of the required space for these factories, infra structural facilities
like water, electricity, transportation network and market facilities. Many new housing colonies were also established in the above three towns and hence they serve as a sub-urban residential areas. The establishment of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, a public sector company at a distance of 6 kms from the Ariyamangalam town and the establishment of various small scale industries are responsible for a comparatively higher growth rate in Ariyamangalam. This town also serves as a sub-urban residential area of Thiruchirappalli city. Mandapam town served as a transit point for Rameshwaram Pilgrims. Previously, there was no road connection from Mandapam to the island. To cater to the needs of the tourists, many commercial establishments like tea-stalls, hotels, automobile workshops, etc. came into existence in this town. Also, due to the establishment of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, ice and refrigeration units and the establishment of sea-foods exporting companies, this town had experienced a heavy in-migration and hence higher growth rate.

Sittalapakkam town and Kavundapalayam town, which form a part of Madras and Coimbatore urban agglomerations respectively had grown at the cost of the expansion of Madras
and Coimbatore cities respectively. In these towns many housing colonies were established and these towns serve as sub-urban residential areas.

A close look at the growth of various occupational groups over the years reveals that there has been a decreasing or retaining trend among the workers under cultivators category in all the towns. Agricultural labourers category has shown a steady decreasing trend in all the towns except Meyyanur, Māndapam and Sittalapakkam towns. The workers under other services also show a decreasing trend over the years. All the remaining occupational categories show an increasing trend between 1931 and 1981 censuses.

Six out of the seven case studies of towns with high urbanity index and high rate of growth of population happens to be part of urban agglomerations of bigger cities. Almost all of them were traditional village settlements with agricultural base. Either because of shift in occupation or because of establishment of industries, new migrants have flocked into these towns. Some of them have helped the accommodation problems of the city by serving as residential suburbs. The inflow of migrants have boosted the literacy rate and the proportion of Scheduled castes
in its population. In the initial years, the existing housing seems to have been subdivided to accommodate the new migrants. In the subsequent decade, a considerable housing activities have taken place resulting in lesser number of persons per households and houses. Most of them had the minimum infrastructural facilities and sought the city's facilities either for earning a living or for specialised service. Thus rapid growth and high urbanity index are features of metropolitan influence.
B. TOWNS WITH HIGH URBANITY INDEX AND LOW RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION

Towns which have recorded high urbanity index and high rate of growth of population were 80. The eight sample towns are 1. Omalur, 2. Narasojipatti, 3. Kulithalai, 4. Lalgudi, 5. Kadipatti, 6. Alagapuri, 7. Kandanur and 8. Puduvayal. The individual cases are briefly reported below.

1. OMALUR

Omalur is a town in Salem district and it is about 17 kilometres from Salem. It is the taluk headquarters also. This town was a Class-V town in 1961 and 1971 census and Class-IV town, according to 1981 census. This town had an area of 2.25 sq.kms. since 1961. The total population of this town had increased from 7,151 persons in 1961 to 8,986 persons in 1971, a growth of 25.66 per cent, which is slightly higher than the general population growth in Tamil Nadu (22.30 per cent) and less than the Tamil Nadu's urban population growth rate (38.64 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981, the population of this town had increased to 10,308 persons, a growth of 14.72 per cent during 1971-'81 decade, which is comparatively less than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth rate (17.50 per cent) and Tamil Nadu's urban population growth rate (27.58 per cent).

There were 1327 occupied residential houses in this town according to 1961 census, which had increased to 1709 in 1971 and
2087 houses in 1981. Similarly the total number of households had increased from 1,389 in 1961 to 1,764 in 1971 and 2,118 in 1981.

The scheduled caste population in this town had increased from 263 persons in 1961 to 502 persons in 1971, a growth of 90.87 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent). This is because of migration of scheduled caste persons as agricultural labourers in this town during this period. According to 1981 census, this town had 823 scheduled caste persons, a growth of 63.94 per cent during 1971-'81 decade, which is again higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent). This town had no scheduled tribe population during 1961 and 1971 censuses and there were 18 scheduled tribes according to 1981 census. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to 64.90 in 1971 and 56.65 in 1981.

There were 3,265 educated and literate persons in this town according to 1961 census. This had increased to 4,802 persons in 1971, a growth of 47.08 per cent, which is less than the growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, this town had 5,987 literate persons. During 1971-'81 decade, the literate persons in this town had increased at the rate of 25.68 per cent only, which is again less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent).
According to 1961 census, this town had 2,380 workers, which had increased to 2,709 workers in 1971, a growth of 13.82 per cent which is higher than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) but less than the growth of working population in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 3,151 workers, a growth of 16.32 per cent during 1971-'81 period, which is less than the growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent) during the same period.

The workers under cultivators category had increased from 118 persons in 1961 to 178 persons in 1971 and it decreased to 125 persons in 1981. Similarly, there were only 48 workers under agricultural labourers category, it had increased to 240 workers in 1971 and it decreased to 115 persons according to 1981 census. Even though there are many cultivable lands around this town, it is due to irregular rain fall and poor storage of water in the wells, many families suffered and migrated to other places.

The workers under manufacturing at household industry had shown a decreasing trend over the years. According to 1961 census, this category had 681 workers and it had decreased to 425 and 431 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. On the contrary, the workers under manufacturing other than household category had shown an increasing trend from 205 persons in 1961 to 416 according to 1971 census, a growth of nearly 100 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in
Tamil Nadu (53.53 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (47.99 per cent) during the same decade. The main manufacturing industries in this town are yarn producing, hand and power looms, mat weaving and manufacturing of household and fancy articles from bamboo.

The workers under trade and commerce category had increased from 406 persons in 1961 to 543 in 1971. Similarly, the workers engaged in transport and communication category had increased from 127 persons in 1961 to 296 workers in 1971. The workers under other services had decreased from 721 persons in 1961 to 563 persons in 1971. According to 1981 census, the town had 2,480 workers under other workers category and 83 workers under marginal workers category. The predominant economic function of this town was manufacturing in 1961 and 1971 censuses.

With regard to drinking water facilities, this town has an over head tank with a capacity of 5 lakhs litres, which was financed by the World Bank and 2 ground level reservoirs with a capacity of 10,000 litres each. In addition to these, the town has 15 borewells of which 12 were fitted with hand pumps and the remaining with electric motors. Of the 21 open wells belonging to the Town Panchayat, 4 wells were fitted with electric motors. Even though the panchayat has not provided individual house connections, public fountains are provided at various parts of this town.

Omalur town has a government hospital with 35 beds capacity and a tuberculosis clinic. People from this town and also from the villages in this taluk seek the medical facilities available in
these hospitals. Also, there are 3 private nursing homes and 8 medical practitioners' clinics in this town. The town also has 3 medical stores.

Regarding commercial establishments, the town has 7 hotels, 30 tea stalls, 32 provisional stores, 5 sweet stalls, 6 vegetable stores, 13 fire-wood depots, 6 fertiliser and pesticides stores, 13 stationary stores, 9 household utensil stores and 10 bakeries. There are 6 photo studios, 5 rice mills, 6 printing presses, 4 lathe and welding workshops, 4 automobile workshops, 8 two-wheeler workshops and 15 cycle shops in this town.

With regard to educational institutions, Omalur town has one higher secondary school, 2 high schools and 2 primary schools. There are 5 English medium schools and 2 short-hand and type-writing institutes in this town.

In Omalur town, due to decline in the prosperity of agricultural occupations, and comparatively very poor income from household industries like hand-loom weaving, mat weaving etc., a considerable out migration was reported over the years.

2. NARASOJIPATTI

Narasojipatti town is in Salem district and Salem is the taluk headquarters. Narasojipatti forms a part of Salem urban agglomeration. It is located at a distance of 7 kms towards the north west of Salem on Omalur road. Since 1971, this town has been treated as an urban area and the total area of this town remains the same as 1.30 sq.kms from 1961 census onwards. The total population of this
town had increased from 1948 persons in 1961 to 2,772 persons in 1971, a growth rate of 42.29 per cent which is comparatively higher than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 2,411 persons. the population of this town had declined at the rate of -13.02 per cent, which is comparatively less than the rate of growth of Tamil Nadu's general population (17.50 per cent) and the Tamil Nadu's urban population (27.58 per cent) during the same decade.

The total number of occupied residential houses was 426 in 1961 and it had increased to 566 in 1971 and decreased to 551 in 1981. Similarly, the total number of households in this town according to 1961 census was 428. This had increased to 569 and 551 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

The scheduled caste population of this town had increased from 271 persons in 1961 to 323 persons in 1971, a growth of 16.09 per cent which is less than the growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 246 persons belonging to scheduled castes, a decline of -23.84 per cent during 1971-'81 period which is comparatively less than the growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent). This is because of large scale out migration of scheduled castes particularly agricultural labourers from this town. This town had no scheduled tribe population
at all. The segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to 50.70 in 1971 and 51.91 in 1981.

According to 1961 census, there were only 176 literate and educated persons. This had increased to 532 persons in 1971 and 784 in 1981. The rate of growth of educated persons in this town during 1971-’81 period is 47.37 per cent which is slightly higher than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent).

With regard to working population in this town, there were 971 workers according to 1961 census. This has increased to 1,023 persons in 1971 and decreased to 790 persons in 1981. This is because a continuous out migration of working population from this town to Salem and to other parts.

The workers under cultivators category in this town had decreased from 236 workers in 1961 to 120 workers in 1971 and 145 workers in 1981. The agricultural labourers category had increased from 164 workers in 1961 to 313 workers in 1971, and it again decreased to 255 workers in 1981. It is due to the non-availability of water for cultivation and irregular rains, the small land holders and agricultural labourers were not able to survive. As a result of this, many farmers and agricultural labourers have migrated from this town.

According to 1961 census, the town had 14 workers under manufacturing at household industry category. According to 1971 census, the town had no workers under this category and in 1981, the town
had 12 workers under this category. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had decreased from 254 persons in 1961 to 189 persons in 1971.

This town had 63 workers under trade and commerce category in 1961 which had increased to just 68 in 1971. Similarly, transport and communication category had 11 workers according to 1961 census and it had increased to 62 persons according to 1971 census. The workers engaged in other services had decreased from 125 persons in 1961 to 94 persons in 1971. According to 1981 census, the town had 378 workers under other workers category and 8 workers under marginal workers category. According to 1961 and 1971 censuses, this town remained a manufacturing town. Even though the town is a manufacturing town, there is no major manufacturing industries in this town. Most of the workers from this town are working in the manufacturing establishments in and around Salem.

With regard to educational institutions, there is one higher secondary school, one high school and 2 primary schools in this town. Besides these, there are 2 English-medium nursery schools in this town.

The town has 6 provisional stores, 5 tea stalls, 2 hotels, 8 petty shops, 2 cycle shops, 1 fertilizer and pesticides shop, and one medical store. Also, there are 2 welding and lathe works.

With regard to drinking water supply, the town has one overhead tank with 25,000 litres capacity. The water is supplied through 200 individual house connections and 20 public connections.
Besides these, 10 borewells are there at various parts of this town, and all of them are fitted with hand pumps. Even though there are no government hospitals or primary health centres, the town has one private nursing home.

Narasojipatti is the extreme north west town of the Salem urban agglomeration. This is an area of dry land and garden land. During the early period of urban growth, due to lift irrigation, ready market in the city, agriculture was flourishing. People from interior villages come and settled down to work in this town and surrounding places. In the subsequent decades, due to scarcity of water, agricultural operations become unproductive and uneconomical forcing many people to leave this town. The urban expansion in this direction was also not spectacular. The local people were left to seek employment elsewhere. The handloom weaving industry also did not make much headway. Hence we see less population growth and decline in economic prosperity.

3. KULITHALAI

Kulithalai town is in Tiruchirappalli District. This town has been notified as an urban area since 1911. The total area of this town continues to be the same as 10.69 sq.kms. According to the 1961 census, the total population of this town was 13,755 persons and it had increased to 17,326 persons in 1971, a growth of 25.96 per cent which is higher than the population growth in Tamil Nadu (22.30 per cent) and less than the urban population growth rate of Tamil Nadu (38.64 per cent). According to 1981 census, the total
The population of this town was 19,756 persons, a growth of 14.03 per cent during 1971-81 decade which is less than the rate of growth of general as well as urban population of Tamil Nadu (17.50 per cent and 27.98 per cent respectively).

The total number of occupied residential houses had increased from 2,843 houses in 1961 to 3,407 and 4,251 houses in 1971 and 1981 respectively. Similarly, the total number of households in this town had also increased from 3,081 in 1961 to 3,730 and 4,302 households in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

The scheduled caste population of this town in 1961 was 1,446 persons. This had increased to 1,745 persons in 1971, a growth of 20.68 per cent, which is more or less equal to the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) but less than the growth of Scheduled caste population in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 2,319 persons belonging to Scheduled castes, a growth of 32.89 per cent during 1971-81 decade which is higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) but less than the growth of scheduled caste population in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent) during the same decade. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to 85.08 in 1971 and it had decreased to 69.24 in the year 1981. This is because many persons belonging to scheduled castes own lands and are economically well-off. Also they reside with other caste people in this town.
The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 6,992 in 1961 to 10,158 persons, a growth of 45.28 per cent which is less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 12,944 educated and literate persons. During 1971-'81 period, the literate population of this town had increased at the rate of 27.43 per cent, which is again less than the growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent).

The total workers of this town had increased from 4,883 persons in 1961 to 5,425 persons in 1971, a growth of 12.25 per cent only which is higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) but less than the growth of workers in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 5,907 workers, a growth of 8.89 per cent during 1971-'81 decade, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent).

Since, all the cultivable lands around this town are being irrigated by the river Cauvery, the agricultural and allied activities had flourished over the years. Mostly the farmers cultivate rice and plaintain. This town had 441 cultivators in 1961, 426 in 1971 and 546 cultivators in 1981. The workers under agricultural labourers category had increased from 470 persons in 1961 to 923 persons in 1971 and 1,099 persons in 1981. Between 1961-'70, around 30 families had migrated from a village near Karur and settled down in this town as agricultural labourers.
The workers under manufacturing at household industry had decreased from 588 workers in 1961 to 400 workers in 1971 and 347 workers in 1981. The main household industry in this town was mat weaving. It is due to the scarcity of raw materials for mat-weaving and relatively poor income from this occupation many families had out migrated from this town. Also many hand-loom weaving families were also out migrated from this town. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry had increased from 515 workers in 1961 to 700 workers in 1971.

The workers under trade and commerce category had doubled between 1961 and 1971. The town had only 737 persons in 1961 under this category. It had increased to 1,334 persons under this category in 1971. During this time, the farmers in and around this town had started cultivating plantain in large areas. The number of commission agents had started increasing and they purchased the agricultural products like plaintain from the farmers. Again during the same period about 20 new shops had been started in this town and they are pesticides and fertiliser shops. It again attracted about 20 pesticides sprayer owners.

The workers under transport and communication category had increased from 229 persons in 1961 to 468 persons in 1971. Whereas, the workers under other services category had decreased from 1,636 workers in 1961 to 1,018 workers in 1971. The predominant economic function of this town was manufacturing in 1961 and became a trade town in 1971.
With regard to commercial institutions, there are 39 petty shops, 15 provisional stores, 7 cloth stores, 32 pesticide and fertilizer shops, 12 tea stalls, 8 hotels, 3 stationary and general merchants and 5 fancy stores. There are 3 two-wheeler workshops, 3 tractor workshops, 2 automobile spare parts stores and 6 rice mills.

In this town, there are 2 higher secondary schools, of which one is for boys and the other is for girls. Also there are 2 primary schools and 4 English-medium nursery schools. There are 2 type-writing institutions in this town.

With regard to medical institutions, the town has a government hospital with 32 beds. Also there are 2 private hospitals with 10 beds capacity each, and 10 medical practitioners have their consulting clinics in this town.

Since, the river Cauvery is only at a distance of 3 kms from this town, there was no water problem in this town. The town has an overhead tank with 8,00,000 litres capacity. Drinking water is being supplied through 1,500 private house connections and 25 public fountains.

In 1960's a sugar and chemicals factory had been started at Pettavaithalai Village which is about 15 kms from this town. Skilled and semiskilled workers from this town had joined this factory since the factory required agricultural coolies to harvest the sugarcane. About 50 families had out migrated from this town. In the 1970's, staff quarters had been constructed on the factory campus, and 25 skilled labourers and their families from this town had migrated to
Pettavaithalai. With the growth of textile and its allied activities at Karur, about 75 persons belonging to weaving community had migrated to Karur and its surrounding villages from this town. The establishment of various large and small scale industries in and around Tiruchi town also attracted a considerable amount of population from this town. Thus, this town had slowly losing its population over the years.

4. **LALGUDI**

Lalgudi town is in Tiruchirappalli district and Lalgudi is the headquarters for Lalgudi taluk. This town has been notified as an urban area since 1921 census. The total area of this town continues to be the same as 8.96 sq.kms since 1961. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 13,874 persons. This had increased to 16,122 in 1971, a growth of 16.20 per cent, which is comparatively less than the rate of growth of population in Tamil Nadu (22.30 per cent) and the growth of urban population of Tamil Nadu (38.64 per cent). According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 17,930 persons. During 1971-’81 decade, this town had a decennial population growth rate of 11.21 per cent, which is again markedly less than the rate of growth of general population and urban population of Tamil Nadu (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively).

According to 1961 and 1971 censuses, there were 3,211 occupied residential houses in this town. This had increased to 3,928 occupied residential houses in 1981. Similarly, there were 3,218

The scheduled caste population of this town had steadily increased from 1,602 persons in 1961 to 2,072 persons in 1971, a growth of 29.33 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) and less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 2,369 persons belonging to scheduled castes. During 1971-'81 period, the scheduled caste population in this town had increased at the rate of 14.33 per cent which is markedly less than the growth of the scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent). Lalgudi town had no scheduled tribe population. The residential segregation index of the scheduled caste population in this town works out to 75.07 in 1971 and 74.85 in 1981.

The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 6,783 persons in 1961 to 9,127 persons in 1971, a growth of 34.56 per cent, which is less than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 12,091 educated persons, a growth of 32.48 per cent during 1971-'81 (decade which is again less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu) (39.25 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent) during the same decade.
Regarding the working population of this town, according to 1961 census, there were 5,228 workers, which had decreased to 4,932 workers in 1971, a decline of -5.66 per cent which is slightly higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 5,434 workers in this town. The working population of this town had increased at the rate of 10.18 per cent during 1971-'81 period which is markedly less than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent), during the same decade.

The workers under cultivators category in this town had decreased from 956 workers in 1961 to 695 and 626 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. On the contrary, the workers under agricultural labourers category had shown an increasing trend from 1,030 workers in 1961 to 1,1416 in 1971, a growth of 37.48 per cent which is less than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu (58.75 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (99.39 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 1,602 persons under agricultural labourers category. The category had increased at the rate of 13.14 per cent which is again markedly less than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (26.10 per cent) during the same decade. There are many cultivable lands in and around this town and the agricultural sector, more or less maintains its tempo over the years.
With regard to workers under manufacturing at household industry category, according to 1961 census there were 125 workers, it had decreased to 30 in 1971 and again increased to 105 workers according to 1981 census. The manufacturing other than household industry had 474 workers and 477 workers in 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. There are 6 stainless steel household utensils manufacturing units in and around this town. Also there are many country bricks manufacturing units in this town. Most of the workers under manufacturing sector are working in these units. The workers under trade and commerce category had 778 workers in 1961. This has increased to 935 workers in 1971. The transport and communication category had 239 workers and 349 workers in 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The workers under other services had decreased from 1,381 workers in 1961 to 841 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, this town had 3,101 workers under other workers category and 251 workers under marginal workers category. The predominant economic function of this town was service in 1961 and it became a trade town in 1971.

With regard to commercial and industrial establishments, this town has 42 petty shops, 31 provisional stores, 3 general stores, 44 tea stalls, 16 hotels, 3 biscuit bakeries, 11 medial stores and 10 electrical goods stores. Also there are 3 rice mills, 5 cloth stores, 10 tailoring shops, 29 cycle repairing shops, 5 automobile spare parts stores, 8 automobile workshops, 6 fertiliser and pesticides stores. The town also has 9 fire wood depots, 3 saw mills, 4 stainless steel utensils manufacturing units and 6 country brick manufacturing units.
Regarding medical facilities, there is a government hospital with 60 beds capacity and 3 private nursing homes. People from the surrounding villages and villagers in this taluk make use of the medical facilities available in these hospitals.

This town is well provided with drinking water facilities. The town has 11 open wells, 8 deep wells with hand pumps and 18 filter point hand pumps at various parts of this town. Also, there are 3 over head tanks with 5000 gallons, 12,000 gallons and 6,000 gallons capacity respectively in this town. Drinking water is supplied through 15 public fountains and 1800 house connections.

With regard to educational institutions, town has 2 higher secondary schools - one for boys and the other for girls, 3 high schools, and 5 primary schools. In addition to these, there are 6 English Medium Nursery School.

Eventhough this town is the taluk headquarters, many officers, who are working in various offices in this town are daily commuting from Tiruchirappalli because this town is well connected with bus and railway net work. Many people of this town found a suitable employment at Tiruchi or elsewhere and migrated from this town. Also, there is no major manufacturing or industrial establishments in this town. For regular and for better employment opportunities many families had outmigrated from this town. Thus, this town is growing at a slower rate over the years.
5. KADIAPATTI

Kadiapatti town is in the Tirumayam taluk in Pudukottai District. It has been treated as an urban area since 1961 census but still this is a Village Panchayat. The town had an area of 9.16 square kilometres and it remained the same in 1971 and 1981 censuses also. The total population of this town had grown at a slow rate during 1961-'71 period. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 3,828 persons and it had increased to 4,250 persons in 1971, a growth rate of 11.02 per cent which is markedly less than the rate of growth of Tamil Nadu’s general as well as urban population (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town had decreased to 4,028 persons, a decline of -5.22 per cent during 1971-'81 decade which is markedly less than the rate of growth of population in Tamil Nadu (17.50 per cent) and the growth of urban population in Tamil Nadu (27.58 per cent).

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 878 in 1961 to 917 in 1971 and 929 in 1981. The total number of households in this town had increased from 980 in 1961 to 1,072 in 1971 and it again decreased to 929 households in 1981.

This town had 522 persons belonging to scheduled castes in 1961 and it had increased to 723 persons in 1971 and 752 persons in 1981. The town had no scheduled tribe population at all. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to 84.79 in 1971 and 84.52 in 1981.
The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 1,686 persons in 1961 to 2,093 persons in 1971, a growth of 24.14 per cent which is less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 2,222 educated persons. The literate persons in this town had increased at the rate of 6.16 per cent only during 1971-'81 period which is again markedly less than the growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent) during the same decade.

The total working population of this town according to 1961 census was 1,188 persons, it had decreased to 992 persons in 1971 and it again increased to 1,005 persons in 1981. The workers under cultivators category had only 403 persons in 1961, it decreased to 196 persons in 1971 and it again increased to 235 persons in 1981. In the case of agricultural labourers, the town had only 31 workers under this category according to 1961 census. In 1971 it had increased to 222 workers and it again decreased to 162 workers in 1981. The main source of water for cultivation is only from the tanks, mainly depending upon the rain. Due to irregular rainfall, the agricultural sector, had lost its importance. Many families belonging to these two categories had migrated to the adjacent district - Tanjore for want of regular employment.

The workers under manufacturing at household industry had shown a considerable decrease over the years. This category had 168 workers in 1961, it had decreased to 36 workers and 32
workers in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had increased from 115 workers in 1961 to 134 workers in 1971.

The workers under trade and commerce category had increased from 88 persons in 1961 to 112 persons in 1971. Similarly, the workers under transport and communication category had increased from 9 workers in 1961 to 67 workers in 1971. The workers under other services category had decreased from 348 workers in 1961 to 194 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, the other workers category had 636 workers and the marginal workers category had only 8 workers. The predominant economic function of this town in 1961 was service and became a manufacturing town in 1971 census.

Regarding the drinking water facilities in this town, the main source of drinking water is the tanks. However the town is provided with 3 borewells, out of it, one borewell has been fitted with electric motor and the remaining with hand pumps. This town has an overhead tank with 25,000 litres capacity and water is being supplied through 17 public fountains provided at various parts of the town.

The town has 7 petty shops, 3 provisional stores, 6 tea stalls, 2 hotels, 2 cycle repairing shops, 3 tailoring shops and a general merchant store. Regarding the educational institutions, the town has one high school, one elementary school and 3 English-medium nursery schools.
Kadiapatti town is mainly dominated by Nattukottai Chettiar. However, there are other caste people also like, Kallar, Pillai, Servai, etc. The Nattukottai Chettiar are the most go-a-head of all trading castes in South India, travelling freely to Burma, the straits settlements and Ceylone (also Saigon, Mauritius and South Africa) and having correspondents in London and on the continent. Before the second world war many of the Nattukottai Chettiar in this town were in Burma and Saigon - primarily migrated there to do agriculture and later they had changed their occupation as money lenders and pawn brokers. At the time of second world war, they left those countries for India. After sometime, they started lending money to local people and expanding their business at various other parts of this state and India. Like that many persons started money lending, pawn broking and other business like cloth, merchant, automobile industry etc and many families were migrated to various parts of the state. If one person visits a Nattukottai Chettiar's house, he will only find elderly persons, because their wards will be at other parts, and they will join together only at times of functions, marriages etc.

Thus, because of the near absence of agricultural activities, a considerable out migration has been reported. Also because of the out migration of many Nattukottai Chettiar families, the town had recorded a slow or even negative growth of population.
6. ALAGAPURI

Alagapuri town is in the Tirumayam Taluk of Pudukkottai district. This town is located at a distance of 13 kms. from Tirumayam and about 33 kms from Pudukkottai. This town has been notified as an urban area since 1931 census. The total area of this town remains the same as 4.16 sq.kms from 1961 census onwards. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 3,077 persons. This had increased to 3,281 persons in 1971, a growth of 6.63 per cent only which is comparatively much less than the Tamil Nadu's general and urban population growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). According to 1981 census the total population of this town was 3,055 persons, a decline of -6.89 per cent, which is again comparatively less than the Tamil Nadu's general and urban population growth rates (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively) during the same decade.

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had decreased from 590 in 1961 to 563 in 1971 and it again increased to 655 in 1981. The total number of households had increased from 773 in 1961 to 778 in 1971 and 708 households in 1981.

According to 1961 census, there were 105 persons belonging to scheduled castes which had increased to 137 persons in 1971 and 177 in 1981. This town had no persons belonging to scheduled tribes. The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 75.12 in 1971 and 64.31 in 1981.
The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 1,442 persons in 1961 census to 1,843 persons in 1971, a growth of 27.81 per cent, which is comparatively less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 1,732 educated persons.

Regarding the working population of this town, there were 801 workers according to 1961 census which had increased to 852 and 853 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The workers under cultivators category had steadily increased from 183 workers in 1961 to 194 workers in 1971 and 361 workers in 1981. The rate of growth of workers under cultivators category during 1971-'81 period was 86.08 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (20.65 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (2.51 per cent) during the same decade. Regarding the workers under agricultural labourers category, this town had only 7 workers in 1961. This had increased to 147 workers in 1971 and again decreased to 69 workers in 1981 census. There are many cultivable lands in and around this town, and the main source of water for cultivation is from the tanks. There are about 10 tanks in and around this town. And these tanks mainly depend upon the rain fall. The farmers cultivate crops like Paddy, Ragi and Oil seeds. It is due to poor agricultural employment opportunities in this town, many agricultural labourers had migrated to other places. Between 1971 and 1980, about 50 families belonging to agricultural
labourers category had migrated to Madurai and its surrounding areas for want of better employment opportunities.

Regarding the workers involved in manufacturing at household industries, according to 1961, this town had 82 persons under this category which had decreased to 46 persons in 1971 and 17 persons in 1981 census. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category this town had 114 workers according to 1961 census and this had decreased to 78 workers according to 1971 census.

The workers under trade and commerce category had decreased from 292 workers in 1961 to 142 workers in 1971. The workers under transport and communication category had increased from 16 workers in 1961 to 28 workers in the 1971 census. There had been a declining trend among the workers engaged in other services. According to 1961 census, there were 275 workers in the other services category and this had decreased to 183 workers according to 1971 census. This town had 406 workers under other workers category and 66 under marginal workers category, according to 1981 census. This town was a service town in 1961 and 1971 censuses.

Regarding the educational facilities this town has one high school and one primary school. There are 2 private English-medium nursery schools. For higher secondary education, the students have to depend on the higher secondary school at Kilaseval patti, which is about 2 kms. from this town.
The main source of drinking water in this town is tanks and wells. However there are 5 bore wells fitted with hand pumps. There is an overhead tank with 25,000 litres capacity water is being supplied to various parts of this town through 20 public fountains.

As regard the commercial institutions, this town has 6 tea stalls, 2 hotels, 5 provisional stores, 10 petty shops, 3 fertilizer and pesticides shop, 1 cloth store, 3 tailoring shops, 5 cycle repairing centre and 2 medical stores. Also there are 2 two wheeler service stations. This town also has 2 rice mills.

Regarding the medical facilities, this town has been provided with one government primary health centre. Three medical practitioners have their consulting clinics in this town. For major treatment of illness, the people of this town seek the medical facilities available at Pudukkottai or at Tirumayam.

In the Alagapuri town, Nattukkottai Chettiar, Kallars, and Devars are the most dominant castes. As the Nattukkottai Chettiar are mainly business people, between 1971 and 1980, as many as 50 families belonging to Nattukkottai Chettiar had migrated to Pudukkottai, Karaikudi, Madurai and Madras to start their business at the above mentioned places. Many families belong to other castes had also migrated to other places in the state for want of better employment opportunities because this town or the surrounding areas of this town does not have any major industrial establishments.
Kandanur is in the Karaikudi taluk of Ramanathapuram district. This town forms a part of Karaikudi urban agglomeration. Kandanur is at a distance of 8 kms from Karaikudi. This town was classified as an urban area in the 1961 census for the first time. The total area of this town remained the same as 5.12 sq.kms from 1961 census onwards. The total population of this town, according to 1961 census was 5,644 persons and it had increased to 15.66 per cent which is comparatively less than the general as well as urban population growth rates of Tamil Nadu (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 6,168 persons, a decline of -5.51 per cent during 1971-'81 decade which is again less than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population decennial growth rates (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively during the same decade).

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 1,298 in 1961 to 1,316 in 1971 and 1,373 in 1981. The total number of households in this town had increased from 1,343 households in 1961 to 1,449 in 1971 and 1,373 in 1981 censuses.

According to 1961 census, this town had 266 persons belonging to scheduled castes. It had increased to 456 persons in 1971 and it again decreased to 372 persons, according to 1981 census. This may be because of outmigration of scheduled caste persons during this period. This town had no scheduled tribe population. The resi-
The educated and literate population of this town had increased from 2,771 persons in 1961 to 3,208 persons in 1971, a growth of 15.77 per cent, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 3,846 educated persons. During 1971-'81 decade, the educated persons in this town had increased at the rate of 19.89 per cent, which is again markedly less than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent) during the same decade.

Regarding the working population of this town, Kandanur town had 1,530 workers according to 1961 census. The total workers in the 1971 census had increased to 1,678 persons and it again decreased to 1,373 persons in 1981 census. Regarding the workers under cultivators category, this town had 420 workers under this category in 1961 census. This had slightly increased to 430 workers in 1971 and it again decreased to 313 workers according to 1981 census. The workers under agricultural labourers category had increased from 49 workers in 1961 to 171 workers in 1971 and 148 workers in 1981 censuses. The agricultural lands in and around this town get water for cultivation from the tanks in and around this town. In recent years, due to the failure of rain during the rainy seasons, the cultivators had not been able to cultivate regularly and as a result,
as many as 75 families belonging to cultivators and agricultural labourers category had migrated to Karaikudi and Madurai for want of regular employment opportunities.

With regard to workers under manufacturing at household industry category, according to 1961 census, this category had 16 workers and it had increased to 44 workers in the 1971 census and it again decreased to 17 workers according to 1981 census. The workers classified as manufacturing other than household industry had decreased from 169 workers in 1961 to 124 workers in 1971.

The workers under trade and commerce category had increased from 125 workers in 1961 to 210 workers in 1971. Similarly, the workers under transport and communication category had increased from 37 workers in 1961 to 62 workers in 1971. The workers under other services category had decreased from 641 workers in 1961 to 504 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, this town had 895 workers under other workers category and only 2 workers under marginal workers category. As per the predominant economic function of this town, it remained a service town in 1961 and 1971 censuses.

This town and its surrounding areas has no major rivers providing perennial water supply for cultivation. Also there is no industrial or manufacturing establishment in this locality. It is because of these factors many families had migrated to Karaikudi and Madurai for want of employment opportunities.
Regarding the educational institutions in this town, there is one higher secondary school, one high school and 2 elementary school. Also there are 3 private nursery schools and 3 short hand and type-writing institutes.

Kandanur town has an over head tank with 1,25,000 litres capacity and the drinking water is provided through 25 public fountains located at various parts of this town. There are 3 open wells and 5 bore wells with hand pumps in this town.

Regarding the commercial and industrial establishment, there are 15 tea stalls, 5 hotels, 15 cycle repairing shops, 8 provisional stores, 22 petty shops, 4 tailoring shops, 2 cloth stores and 2 biscuit stalls in this town. There are 5 pesticides and fertiliser stores, 2 power sprayer spare parts and servicing centres, 3 automobile workshops and 3 lathe and welding workshops in this town.

As regards the medical facilities in this town, there is a government hospital and it has an outpatient department with 15 beds. There are 3 private nursing homes and 3 doctors have their consulting clinics in this town. This town has 3 medical stores also.

It is due to lack of water supply for cultivation and poor and irregular employment opportunities. This town is experiencing a stream of outmigration in the recent years.
8. **PUDUVAYAL**

Puduvayal town is in Karaikudi taluk of Ramanathapuram district and this town is at a distance of about 12 kms from Karaikudi. This town forms a part of the Karaikudi urban agglomeration. The total area of this town remains the same as 10.95 square kilometres from 1961 census onwards. The total population of this town had increased from 4,468 persons in 1961 to 55,598 persons in 1971, a growth of 25.29 per cent, which is slightly higher than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth rate (22.30 per cent) and less than the Tamil Nadu's urban population growth rate (38.64 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 5,470 persons, a decline of -2.29 per cent during 1971-'81 decade which is less than the Tamil Nadu's general and urban population growth rates (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively) during the same decade.

According to 1961 census, there were 836 occupied residential houses in this town, and this had increased to 997 in 1971 and 1,112 in 1981. The total number of households in this town had increased from 1,074 in 1961 to 1,357 households in 1971 and it again decreased to 1,112 households in the 1981 census.

According to 1961 census, this town had 432 persons belonging to scheduled castes, this had increased to 643 persons in 1971 and it again decreased to 581 persons in 1981. This is because, a large scale out migration of scheduled caste persons from this town. This town had no scheduled tribe population. The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 51.90 in 1971 and 80.74 in 1981.
The educated and literate population of this town had increased from 2,263 persons in 1961 to 2,910 in 1971, a growth of 28.59 per cent which is markedly less than the rate of growth of literate population of Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 3,379 literate persons, a growth of 16.12 per cent only during 1971-'81 decade, which is again markedly less than the growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent). This is because a reasonably high literacy among the outmigrants.

The total working population of this town had increased from 1,264 workers in 1961 to 1,376 workers in 1971, a growth of 8.86 per cent only which is markedly higher than the growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) but less than the growth of workers in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 1,355 workers in this town.

The workers under cultivators category had increased from 180 workers in 1961 to 291 workers in 1971 and it again decreased to 124 workers according to 1981 census. The workers under cultivators category had increased from 5 workers in 1961 to 28 workers and 82 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The cultivators in and around this town have to depend mainly on the availability of water in the tanks. This area is deficient in rainfall. It is because of the limited availability of water for cultivation, the agricultural sector, in this town did not show any signs of improvement.
The workers under manufacturing at household industry had 22 workers in 1961; it had decreased to 8 workers and 20 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had also decreased from 157 workers in 1961 to 149 workers in 1971.

The workers under trade and commerce category had increased from 231 workers in 1961 to 324 workers in 1971, a growth of 40.26 per cent, which is less than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (52.21 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (65.08 per cent) during the same decade. This town had 59 workers and 70 workers under transport and communication category according to 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively.

The workers under other services category had decreased from 556 workers in 1961 to 440 workers in 1971. This town had 1,129 workers under other workers category and 8 workers under marginal workers category according to 1981 census. This town was a service town in 1961 and 1971 censuses.

There are as many as 48 rice mills in this town. Many people in this town are engaged in the rice business. They purchase raw paddy from the Tanjore district and they produce rice from that. So, many people in one way or other are engaged in that occupation. Besides nattukottai chettiar families, there are other castes like Devar, Pillai, Kallar etc. Most of the members belonging to nattukottai chettiar families are engaged in money lending and pawn broking activities. Many families belonging to nattukottai chettiar families
had migrated to Madurai and Karaikudi to start their business. Similarly, many families belonging to other castes had also migrated to Madurai, and Tanjore for want of regular employment opportunities.

Regarding the commercial establishments, this town has 10 provisional stores, 5 hotels, 7 tea stalls, 2 cloth stores, 12 petty shops, 3 tailoring shops, 5 fertiliser and pesticides shops, 2 electrical stores, and one fancy shop. There are 48 rice mills, 2 automobile spare parts and serving centres and 3 welding and lathe works. There are also about 15 rice whole sale godowns in this town.

With regard to drinking water supply, the town has 3 tanks exclusively for drinking water, and about 30 open wells. Besides this, the town is provided with an over head tank with 3 lakhs litres capacity and 18 bore wells with hand pumps. Water is distributed to the public through 300 individual house connections and 38 public connections. This town is also provided with a primary health centre. Also, there is one private nursing home and 3 doctors have their clinics in this town.

Puduvayal town has one government higher secondary school, one high school and one elementary school besides 3 private nursery schools.

Thus, because of out-migration of many nattukottai chettiar families and the near absence of agricultural or manufacturing occupations, this town has experienced a netout migration trends over the decades.
CONCLUSION

In this category, 8 towns were selected for field work data collection from among the towns with a high urbanity index and low growth rate. They are 1. Omalur, 2. Narasojipatti, 3. Kulithalai, 4. Lalgudi, 5. Kadiapatti, 6. Alagapuri, 7. Kandanur and 8. Puduvayal. With regard to the workers in various occupational categories, the workers under cultivators, manufacturing at household industries, and other services, a decreasing trend was reported between 1961 to 1981. Regarding workers engaged in manufacturing other than household industry, there had been a retaining trend, and the workers in the remaining occupational categories had shown a slight increasing trend between 1961 and 1981 censuses.

These towns are traditionally agricultural towns with one or two traditional industries like yarn producing, mat weaving etc. had a well established health, sanitary and educational facilities. It is because of declining agricultural activities, want of water facilities, a number of families suffered and, a considerable outmigration has been reported from these towns. This has resulted in lower growth rate. The near absence of agricultural activities has drastically reduced the female employment. The one-time prosperity and considerable amount of inflow of money from the migrants has sustained the infrastructures such as educational institutions, hospitals, banks and basic services, electricity, water, drainage, etc. Out of the 8 towns selected, 4 towns namely, Omalur, Narasojipatti, Kulithalai and Puduvayal
have small scale industries such as yarn production, mat weaving, coir manufacturing, sugar and chemicals factory, rice-mills etc. The remaining 4 towns namely, Lalgudi, Kadiapatti, Alagapuri and Kandanur, do not have any such industries, but they receive an inflow of monetary resources from the people who have migrated from these towns.
C. TOWNS WITH LOW URBANITY INDEX AND HIGH RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION:

Towns which have recorded low urbanity index and high rate of growth of population were 87. The eight sample towns are: 1. Sivagiripatti, 2. Thirusulam, 3. Madipakkam, 4. Perungudi, 5. Surampatti, 6. Chinnampalayam, 7. Veerapandi and 8. Athimarapatti. The individual cases are briefly reported below:

SIVAGIRIPATTI

Sivagiripatti town forms a part of the Palani urban agglomeration and Palani is the taluk headquarter for this town. For the first time this town has been classified as an urban area and it is a class VI town according to 1971 census. This town had an area of 19.97 since 1961. The total population of this town according to 1961 census was 417 persons. This had increased to 2089 persons, according to 1971 census, a growth rate of 400.96 per cent. This is markedly higher than the rate of growth of Tamilnadu's general and urban population. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 3945, a growth rate of 88.85 per cent. This is higher than the rate of growth of population of Tamilnadu (17.50 per cent) and urban population of Tamilnadu (27.58 per cent).

According to 1971 census, there were 453 occupied residential houses in this town. This had increased to 689 houses in 1981. There were 478 households in 1971 which had increased to 784
In the case of scheduled caste population, this town had only 42 scheduled caste persons in 1961. This had increased to 337 persons and 596 persons in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. This is because of a large scale migration of scheduled caste persons to this town. This town had only 6 persons belonging to scheduled tribes in 1981. Previously this town did not have scheduled tribe population. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to just 22.58 in 1971 and 26.12 in 1981, one of the residentially well integrated towns in Tamilnadu. The educated and literate persons in this town had shown a steep increasing trend from just 85 literate persons in 1961 to 744 persons in 1971 and 2016 persons in 1981. This may be due to the proportionately high literacy among the migrants to this town.

According to 1961 census, the total workers in this town was 160 persons. This had increased nearly four times and the town had 644 persons in 1971. This again increased to 1473 workers according to 1981 census. The rate of growth of washers in this town during 1971-81 decade is 128.73 percent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of working population in Tamilnadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (32.78 per cent) during the same period.

The workers under cultivators category as well as
agricultural labourers category had shown an increasing trend. According to 1961 census, the town had only 22 workers under cultivators category. This had increased to 180 workers and 172 workers respectively in 1971 and 1981 censuses. In the case of workers under agricultural labourers category, this town had only 34 workers according to 1961 census. This had increased to 173 workers in 1971 and 642 workers in 1981. Since, water for cultivation is available without any shortage, the agricultural sector had improved over the years. The cultivators used to cultivate crops like vegetables, green leaves, plantain etc, and sell them at Palani market. In this way, the cultivators are able to make more money and many persons started cultivation so also the agricultural labourers. Palani being a Hindu pilgrim centre is getting expanded. The Devasthanam had started an Arts College, a siddha medical centre etc. Due to this, this town also started growing. Between 1961-70 as many as 200 new houses were constructed in this town and around 250 families have migrated to this town and settled in this town.

According to 1961 census, this town had no workers under manufacturing category at household industry. There were 51 workers in 1971 and three workers in 1981 under this category. The manufacturing industry other than household industry had 10 workers according to 1961 census and it had increased to 43 workers in 1971.

This town had only 8 workers in trade and commerce
category in 1961 and it had increased to 55 workers in 1971. The transport and communication category had 11 workers and 45 workers in 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The workers classified under other services had increased from 58 persons in 1961 to 88 persons in 1971. There were 656 workers under other workers category and six workers under marginal workers, category according to the 1981 census. The non-workers in this town had steadily increased from 257 persons in 1961 to 1,445 persons and 2,466 persons in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. This town was a service town in 1961 and it became an agricultural town in 1971.

Since, this town is only a distance of 2 kms from Palani, many persons who are working or doing business at Palani find it very convenient to settle down in this town. This town had 2 primary schools only. There is no primary health centre or government hospital in this town. People from this town avail the educational and medical facilities available at Palani.

With regard to the drinking water supply, this town has an overhead tank with 4,40,000 litres capacity. Drinking water is being pumped from the Schenbhager river and supplied through 300 individual house connections and 15 public fountains. Also there are 5 borewells and all of them are fitted with hand pumps.

Regarding the commercial establishments, the town has 7 petty shops, 3 tea stalls, 3 provisional stores and 3 cycle repairing
shops. Also there are 3 fertilizer and pesticides stores and 3 tailoring shops.

Sivagiripatti is an example of agricultural prosperity due to its locational advantage. From canal irrigation it supplemented with lift irrigation. Instead of traditional cropping it started to cultivate vegetables and other requirements of the nearly pilgrim centre. Intense agriculture require more agricultural workers and heavy inflow of migrant agricultural workers has brought in a better distribution of scheduled castes. It has become a service centre supplying vegetable and dairy products. Quite natural that it sustains its predominant agricultural activities.

THIRUSULAM

Thirusulam is at a distance of 13 kms from Saidapet, 64 kms from Kanchipuram the district headquarters and 18 kms from Madras. This town forms a part of the Madras urban agglomeration. It was treated as an urban area for the first time in the 1961 census. The total urban area of this town continues to be 2.41 sq.kms since 1961.

According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 1,369 persons and it had increased to 2,395 persons with a decennial population growth rate of 74.95 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the Tamilnadu's general and urban population decennial growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent.
respectively. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 4,802 persons. The rate of growth of population of this town during 1971-81 decade is 100.50 per cent, which is again much higher than the growth rate of Tamilnadu's general and urban population (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively).

The total number of occupied residential houses had increased from 304 in 1961 to 524 houses and 1180 houses in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The total number of households in this town had increased from 304 households in 1961 to 574 household in 1971 and 1189 households in 1981. This town had 355 persons in 1971 belonging to scheduled castes and it had sharply increased to 2,583 persons according to 1981 census. This town had no scheduled tribe population. The sudden increase is because of large scale migration of scheduled caste persons to this town to work in the quarry. The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 59.85 in 1971 and 53.60 in 1981.

The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 277 persons in 1961 to 763 persons in 1971, a growth of 175.45 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamilnadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 1540 literate persons in this town. During 1971-81 period, literate persons in this town had grown at the rate of 101.83 per cent which is again markedly higher than the rate of
growth of literates in Tamilnadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (44.08 per cent).

According to 1961 census, Thirusulam town had 725 workers and this had increased to 1202 workers in the 1971 census, a growth of 65.79 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of working population in Tamilnadu (3.97) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (21.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, the total working population of this town was 2,489 persons recording a growth rate of 107.07 per cent during 1971 - 81 period, which is again higher than the rate of growth of working population in Tamilnadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (32.78 per cent).

According to 1961 census, 5 workers were engaged in manufacturing at household industry and it had decreased to one worker and 4 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. But the workers under manufacturing other than household industry had increased from 565 persons in 1961 to 1004 persons in 1971, a growth of 77.69 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamilnadu (53.53 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (47.99 per cent) during the same period.

The construction category had 26 workers in 1961 and it had decreased to 17 workers in 1971. The trade and commerce category had 12 workers and 10 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The transport and communication category had
28 workers in 1961 and 58 workers in 1971. Similarly, there had been an increase in the workers engaged in other services from 69 workers in 1961 to 99 workers in 1971. Thirusulam town had 2468 persons as other workers and only 5 were marginal workers according to 1981 census. The non-workers in this town had increased from 644 persons in 1961 to 1193 persons and 2308 persons in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The predominant economic function of the town was manufacturing in both 1961 and 1971 censuses.

One end of this town is surrounded by a small mountain. Now there are as many as 54 stone crushers in this town. Each stone cruster requires at least 35 to 40 persons at a time. The crushed stones are used for paving roads, as building materials etc., since raw stones are easily available, new stone crushers came to the established over the years in this town. So, mainly because of these stone crushers, this town had experienced a heavy inflow of migrants over the years. These workers, specifically scheduled castes migrated mainly from the dry regions Tirunelveli, Ramnad and Salem district; The adjacent town namely, Pallavaram is at a distance of 2 kms. There are many major industrial establishments at Pallavaran which produces electric transformers, electric switches etc. These industrial establishments had also played a vital role in attracting people from other parts to this town. Also, the domestic and international airport at Meenambakham is adjacent to this town. Owing to these factors, Thirusulam town had grown at a faster rate over the years.
Regarding the educational Institutions, this town has one Government High School and one Government Elementary School. There is no higher secondary school in this town. For higher secondary education, the students have to go to Pallavaram town.

Thirusulam town has 5 petty shops, 5 tea stalls, 6 hotels, 5 provisional stores, one medical store, two automobile workshop and 4 bicycle repairing shops.

Regarding medical institution Thirusulam town has no government hospital or primary health centre. Also, there is no private hospitals in this town. Two medical practitioners have their consulting clinics in this town. Regarding drinking water supply, this town is provided with 6 bore wells with hand pumps. There is one overhead tank with 20,000 litres capacity. Drinking water is being supplied through 10 public taps provided in various parts of this town.

Eventhough, Thirusulam town does not have some basic facilities and urban amenities, this town experiences a high rate of growth of population due to stone crushing industry and locational advantage.

MADIPAKKAM

Madipakkam town is in the Saidapet taluk of Chengalpattu district. This town is located at a distance of 8 kms from
Saidapet, 62 kms from Kanchipuram the district headquarters and 15 kms from Madras city. This town was treated as an urban area for the first time in the 1971 census and a part of the Madras urban agglomeration. According to 1981 census, this town was a class VI town.

According to 1961 census, this town was a rural area with 150 occupied residential houses and 200 households. The total population was 955 persons of which 762 persons belongs to scheduled castes. Out of the total work force of 443 persons in 1961, 75 workers were engaged in the agricultural sector and a large number of workers (numbering 323 persons) were in the manufacturing sector. However, the other sectors namely trade and commerce, transport and communication and other services had 7 workers, 6 workers and 27 workers respectively in the 1961 census. The total number of non-workers of the Modipakkam village was 512. According to 1961 census, this was a manufacturing centre based on the predominant function of its work force.

In the 1971 census, Madipakkam village was divided into two namely Madipakkam (rural) and Madipakkam (urban). The Madipakkam rural had 528 occupied residential houses and 543 households. The total population was 2,786 persons, out of which 882 persons belong to scheduled castes and 1,025 were literates. The total working population was 889 persons out of which 180 workers were classified as cultivators, 181 persons as agricultural labourers. The manufacturing category had 85 workers, and the
construction category had 131 workers. The trade and commerce, and transportation and communication categories had 54 workers and 27 workers respectively. There were 93 workers under other services category and 320 non-workers.

The Madipakkam town had a total area of 5.59 sq.kms with 13 occupied residential houses and 13 households according to the 1971 census. The total population of this town was only 96 persons, of which only one person belongs to scheduled caste, and 76 persons were literates. Out of 23 workers, 3 of them were engaged in manufacturing other than household industries, 2 workers in trade and commerce category, one worker in transport and communication category and the remaining 17 workers in the other services category. There were 73 non-workers in this town. Based on the predominant economic function of this town, Madipakkam was a service town according to the 1971 census.

According to the 1981 census, the total urban area of this town was 5.63 sq.km. This town had 444 occupied residential houses and the same number of households according to the 1981 census. The total population of Madipakkam town according to 1981 census was 2,269 persons, among them persons belong to scheduled castes and 1467 persons were literates. Out of 691 total workers, 52 workers were cultivators, 177 workers were classified as agricultural labourers, 8 workers were engaged under manufacturing at household industries, 454 workers were under other workers category and 77 were marginal workers. There were 1501 non-
workers in this town, according to 1981 census.

As the Madras city started expanding, the people also started moving towards the sub-urban areas and constructed their houses in this area also. During the year 1968, a residential colony namely Ayyappanagar was established, in that 10 new houses were constructed. After that, the real estate business had started growing like anything in this town. New housing areas like Balajinagar, Thilagar avenue, Ramamoorthy nagar, Periyar nagar etc. came into existence. With the easy availability of water in this area and approved layouts for house construction at a comparatively lower prices, many working class people and business people purchased their own housing sites and constructed houses.

The frequent city bus services to all parts of the Madras city also played a vital role in the development of this town.

With regard to drinking water supply, this town has 14 public wells, 3 bore wells with hand pumps and two overhead tanks with 1,00,000 litres and 60,000 litres capacities. Drinking water supply is made through 250 individual house connections and 24 public fountains.

There are 12 petty shops, 15 tea stalls, 10 hotels, 25 provisional stores, 5 vegetable stores, 5 fruit stalls, 8 cloth stores, 14 tailoring shops, 8 fancy goods stores, and 3 general merchants and stationary stores in this town. It also has 7 paint
and hardware stores, 4 medical stores, 2 welding and lathe works.
There are 3 two-wheeler service stations in the Madipakkam town.

Regarding the educational institutions, this town has one
government elementary school and a government high school. For
higher secondary level education, the students have to go either to
St. Thomas Mount or to Puzhuthivakkam town both at a distance of
about 3 kms from this town. Also there are 3 private nursery
schools in Madipakkam.

Regarding the medical facilities, there are two
private nursing homes, also there are 5 private doctors' clinics in
this town. Since, Madipakkam town does not have either a
government primary health centre or a government hospital, people
avail the medical treatment available at government hospitals at
St. Thomas Mount or at Saidapet.

Besides the working class and business people in
Madras, many workers, who are all working in various big
manufacturing industries at St. Thomas Mount and Guindy, are also
settled down in this town. Thus this town functions as a residential
area for suburban industrial workers as well as commuters employed
in Madras.

PERUNGUDI

Perungudi town is in the Saidapet taluk in Chengalpattu
district. It is on the old Mahabalipuram road and it is about 12
kms from Saidapet, 16 kms from Madras and 76 kms from Kanchipuram—the district headquarter. This town forms a constituent unit of the Madras urban agglomeration and treated as an urban area in the 1971 census. According to 1981 census, Perungudi was a class VI town. The total urban area of this town remains the same as 4.66 sq.kms as it was in the 1971 and 1981 censuses.

The total population of this town had increased from 613 persons in 1961 to 1741 persons in 1971 and 4277 persons in the 1981 census. The rate of growth of population of this town during 1961-71 period was 184.01 per cent, which is comparatively much higher than the Tamilnadu's general and urban population growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). During 1971-81 period, this town recorded a growth rate of 145.66 per cent which is again markedly higher than the rate of growth of general and urban population of Tamilnadu (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent) during the same decade.

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 329 in 1971 to 963 in 1981. The total number of households, in this town also increased from 135 households in 1961 to 362 and 983 in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

Perungudi town had 241 persons, belonging to scheduled castes in 1961 and it had increased to 379 persons, a growth of 57.26 per cent which is higher than the rate of growth of
scheduled caste population of Tamilnadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (36.67 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 578 persons belonging to scheduled castes. The rate of growth of scheduled castes in this town during 1971-82 decade is 52.51 per cent which is again higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamilnadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas Tamilnadu (41.52 per cent). This town had 40 persons belonging to scheduled tribes in 1971 and it had increased to 60 persons in 1981. The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 68.50 in 1971 and this had decreased considerably to 44.40 in 1981. It may be due to large scale migration of people from all walks of life to this town.

The educated and literate persons in this town had sharply increased from 150 persons in 1961 to 828 persons in 1971 and 2861 persons in 1981. The rate of growth of literate persons in this town during 1971-81 period is 245.53 percent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of literates in Tamilnadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (44.08 per cent). This may be because of comparatively higher proportion of literacy among the migrants.

The working population in this town had shown a steady increase over the years. This town had 57 workers under cultivators category and it had decreased to 27 workers and 12 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. Similarly there were 149 workers under agricultural labourers category and it had
decreased to 44 workers in 1971 and 37 workers in 1981. Previously there were many agricultural lands in this town, later they were converted into housing sites and new housing colonies were established. As the Madras city started expanding towards this side, the agricultural labourers and cultivators were not able to survive and as many as 50 families belonging to this category had moved out from this town.

The workers under manufacturing at household industry category had 6 persons in 1961 and it had only 7 persons in 1971 in 1981 censuses. In the case of workers under manufacturing category other than household industry, from 4 workers in 1961, it had increased to 150 workers in 1971. During 1969, an electronic industrial estate was started at this town and many industrial establishments had started growing. It was because of this, the manufacturing category other than household industry had shown an increasing trend.

The trade and commerce category had 12 persons and 42 persons in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. Similarly, the transport and communication category had 4 workers in 1961 and 99 workers in 1971. The workers in other services had increased from 30 persons in 1961 to 71 persons in 1971. Perungudi town had 1237 workers under other workers category and 22 workers under under marginal workers category, according to the 1981 census. The non-workers in this town had shown a short increase from 314 persons in 1961 to 1254 persons and 2962 persons in 1971 and 1981.
The predominant economic function of this town in 1961 was agricultural and it became a manufacturing town in 1971.

Regarding the drinking water supply in this town, there is an overhead tank of 50,000 litres capacity. There are 8 open wells and 5 bore wells fitted with hand pumps. Water is being supplied through 5 public fountains situated at various parts of this town. There is no government hospital or primary health centres in this town. Three medical practitioners have their consulting clinics in this town.

Perungudi town has one government higher secondary school, one private girls high school and one government elementary school. Also, there are 3 private nursery schools.

Regarding commercial establishments in this town, there are 45 petty shops, 15 provisional stores, 12 tea stalls, 8 hotels, 11 cycle repairing shops, 3 cloth stores, 7 tailoring shops, 3 fancy stores, 2 house-hold utensil shops, 5 two-wheeler and automobile work shops and 2 automobile spare parts stores. Regarding industrial establishments, there are 20 companies in electronic industrial estate, manufacturing electronic instruments and accessories. Also there are about 6 welding and lathe workshops in this town.

There are many educational institutions very near to this
town, namely Anna University, Indian Institute of Technology, International Institute of Tamil Studies, Government Polytechnic etc. People employed in these institutions also find accommodation in this town. This, with the establishment of many institutions near this town, expansion of Madras city towards this direction and the establishment of an electronic industrial estate in this town, Perungudi had experienced a heavy inflow of people to this town.

SURAMPATTY

Surampatty town is in Periyar district and is about 3 kms from Erode - the district headquarters. Surampatty was notified as an urban area for the first time in 1971 census. The total urban area of this town remains the same as 3.17 sq.kms from 1961 onwards. According to 1961 census, the population of this town was 2,933 persons and it increased to 5,588 persons in 1971, a growth of 90.52 per cent which is markedly higher than the Tamilnadu's general and urban population growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 14,934 persons. During 1971-81 decade, this town recorded a rate of growth of population of 167.25 per cent, which is again markedly higher than the rate of growth of urban and general population of Tamilnadu.

According to 1961 census, the total number of households in this town was 682 and it was 1291 in 1971 and 3618 in 1981. According to 1971 census, there were 641 persons belonging to scheduled castes and it had increased to 807 persons in 1981. This
works out to a growth rate of 25.89 per cent which is slightly higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamilnadu (21.40 per cent), but less than in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (41.52 per cent). This town had no scheduled tribe population over the years. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes in this town works out to 61.12 in 1971 and it had increased to 75.68 in 1981.

With regard to literates, and educated persons, this town had only 919 persons according to 1961 census, and it increased to 2256 persons in 1971, a growth of 145.48 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamilnadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (56.55 per cent). The educated and literate persons in this town had increased to 8218 persons according to 1981 census. This category recorded a growth of 264.27 per cent during 1971-81 period, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamilnadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (44.08 per cent).

The total workers of this town in 1961 was 1406 persons and it increased to 2299 in 1971, a growth of 63.51 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamilnadu (3.97 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (21.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 7221 workers in this town. The total workers of this town recorded a growth rate of 214.09 per cent during 1971-81 decade, which is again markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamilnadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (32.78 per cent).
In the case of workers under cultivators category, according to 1961 census there were 173 persons and it decreased to 133 persons, a decline of -23.12 percent which is more or less equal to the rate of growth of cultivators in Tamilnadu (-28.65 percent) and less than the rate of growth of cultivators in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (-10.82 percent). According to 1981 census, this town had 119 cultivators category had declined at the rate of -10.53 percent which is markedly lesser than the growth of cultivators in Tamilnadu (20.65 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (2.51 per cent).

According to 1961 census, this town had 216 workers under agricultural labourers category and it had decreased to 126 persons in 1971 and it again increased to 201 workers in 1981. The rate of growth of agricultural labourers in this town is 59.52 percent which is higher than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamilnadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (26.10 per cent).

The workers under manufacturing at household industry had shown a steady increase over the years. According to 1961 census, this town had only 12 workers under this category and it had increased to 155 workers in 1971 and 351 workers in 1981. The rate of growth of workers under this category during 1971-81 decade is 126.45 per cent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamilnadu (34.09 per cent). Similar trend is reported in the case of workers classified under manufacturing other than household industry also. This is due
to the establishment of edible oil mills, powerlooms, calandering and sizing mills.

The workers under trade and commerce category in this town had increased from 79 persons in 1961 to 338 persons in 1971. Similarly, the workers under transport and communication category had increased from 52 persons in 1961 to 188 persons in 1971.

The workers under other services category had 217 persons in 1961 and 222 persons in 1971. According to 1981 census, this town had 6,550 persons under other workers category and 107 marginal workers. The non-workers in this town had shown a steady increase from 1528 persons in 1961 to 3289 and 7606 persons in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. Regarding the predominant economic function, Surampatti town was manufacturing town in 1961 as well as in 1971.

With regard to the commercial establishments, there are 36 provisional stores, 3 petty chops, 19 tea stalls, 3 tiffin stalls, 2 cloth stores and 5 tailoring shops. There are 3 cement pipe works, 3 milk dairies, 4 mutton stalls, 1 fertilizer mixing company, 5 firewood depots, 1 cattle feed shop and 12 cycle repairing shops. Also there are 6 oil mills, 6 powerlooms, 5 lathe and welding workshops, 1 sizing mill, 4 calendaring and printing works.

Regarding drinking water supply, water is pumped from the river Kaveri and stored into over head tanks with 60,000 litres capacity each. Water is supplied throughout the town through 1504
individual house connections and 21 public fountains. Besides this 25 borewells have been fitted with hand pumps.

With regard to educational institutions, the town is having only one government elementary school. There are 2 private English medium schools. Since, Erode city is very near to this town, the students utilise the educational facilities available at Erode.

Regarding the medical institutions available in this town, there is neither a primary health centre nor a government hospital. Even though there are as many as 25 private medical practitioners, they have out-patient facility only. The district headquarters hospital is located at a distance of 1.5 kms from this town and the people of this town avail the medical facilities available at this hospital.

With regard to the growth of this town, until 1970, the town had experienced growth at a slow rate, and in 1970, around 100 employees working in the E.B. department purchased lands and constructed buildings behind the present district collectorate campus and they named that locality as E.B. colony. These lands were previously dry lands and people used to cultivate crops depending upon the rain. In the same year 4 edible oil mills were started in this town. From 1975, the E.B. colony started expanding giving rise to the birth of teachers colony. Around 500 persons had migrated and settled down in their newly constructed houses at Teachers colony.
Erode town is very famous for lungies, bed sheets, bedspreads and printed cotton textile materials. As the Erode city expands in size and there is a great demand for the space to do various textile processing works like calendering and printing. And these industries started moving away from the central city area to the suburbs. In this way, 4 calendering mills were started in the year 1977 besides 6 power looms. This gives way to further inflow of about 75 families.

The bifurcation of the then Coimbatore district in the two districts namely Coimbatore and Periyar districts with Erode as the headquarter for the Periyar district in the year 1978 and the opening of the new collectorate complex which is located on Perundurai road of this town gave an additional momentum to the growth of this town. As many as 300 families migrated to this town after the inauguration of the new collectorate buildings. Again in 1984, after the inauguration of a new court complex, opposite to the collectorate building also brought about 200 new families to this town.

Now also, new small scale companies are being started. They make cotton printing shirts and export them to foreign countries. As a result, there is a demand for tailors, cutting masters, etc. in large numbers. It results in further inflow of people to this town. Similarly, the newly installed powerlooms also attract more people.
Chinnampalayam is a class - VI town according to 1981 census, in the Pollachi taluk of Coimbatore district. This town forms a part of Pollachi urban agglomeration and it was treated as an urban area for the first-time in the 1971 census. This town is at a distance of 2 km towards the east from Pollachi and 43 kms from Coimbatore. According to the 1961 census, the total area of this town was 1.92 sq.kms. There was no territorial change in the later censuses. Chinnampalayam town had a total population of 1660 persons in the 1961 census and this had increased to 2580 persons in 1971, a decennial growth rate of 55.42 per cent, which is higher than the general and urban population growth rate in Tamilnadu (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). The population of this town had increased to 4036 persons according to 1981 census. The rate of growth of population in this town during 1971-81 period is 56.43 per cent which is again higher than the Tamilnadu's general population growth rate (17.50 per cent) and urban population growth rate (27.58 per cent) during the same decade.

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 303 houses in 1961 to 453 houses in 1971 and 970 houses in 1981. Similarly the total number of households had increased from 390 households in 1961 to 606 households and 970 households in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

The scheduled caste persons in this town had increased from 68 persons in 1961 to 186 persons in 1971. According to 1981
census, this town had 447 persons belonging to scheduled castes. The rate of growth of scheduled caste persons in this town is 140.32 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste persons in Tamilnadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (41.52 per cent) during the same decade. This town had no persons belonging to scheduled tribes over the years. The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 73.71 in 1971. This had decreased to 54.06 in 1981.

The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 521 persons in 1961 to 1387 persons in 1971, a growth of 166.22 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of literates in Tamilnadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 2484 literate persons. During 1971-81 decade, the educated persons in this town recorded a growth of 79.09 per cent which is again higher than the rate of growth of literates in Tamilnadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (44.08 per cent).

According to 1961 census, this town had 854 workers, and it had 847 workers and 1478 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The workers in this town recorded a growth of 74.49 per cent during 1971-81 period, which is higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamilnadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (32.78 per cent).
The workers classified as cultivators had increased from 76 workers in 1961 to 102 workers in 1971 and it again decreased to 77 workers in 1981. On the other hand, the workers classified under agricultural labourers had increased from 22 workers in 1961 to 147 workers and 214 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The rate of growth of agricultural labourers in this town during 1971-81 decade is 45.58 per cent which is higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamilnadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (26.10 per cent).

According to 1961 census, this town had no workers under manufacturing at household industry and it had 30 workers in 1971 and 14 workers in the 1981 census. The manufacturing category other than household industry had 36 workers and 97 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively.

The trade and commerce category had 30 workers in 1961 and 83 workers in 1971. Similarly, the transport and communication category had 11 workers and 51 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The workers classified under other services category had increased from 315 workers in 1961 to 641 workers in 1971. Chinnampalayam town had 1173 workers under other workers category and 13 workers under marginal workers category according to 1981 census. Based on the predominant economic function of the workers in this town, Chinnampalayam was a service town in the 1961 and 1971 censuses.
Chinnampalayam is still a village panchayat, even though it was treated as an urban area in 1971 itself. It is surrounded by cultivable lands. Pollachi and its surroundings usually get good rain during the monsoon seasons, so it is an agriculturally prosperous area. Here, people used to cultivate crops like coconut, cotton, groundnut etc. besides vegetables. Since, Pollachi is very near to this town, the cultivators are able to sell their products for a comparatively good price. And it is due to this reason, the agricultural sector in this town has been able to retain its tempo over the years. Chinnampalayam town is located on the Pollachi Udumalpet main road and well connected with city bus service to various other parts. As the Pollachi town started expanding in size, many cultivable lands and vacant lands were converted into housing sites and many new houses were constructed. Many government and private officers working at Pollachi were able to purchase their own housing sites at a comparatively cheap rate in this town, they started constructing their houses in this town. In this way, about 50 families have migrated to this town.

Regarding, commercial institutions, there are 5 petty shops, 3 tea stalls and 5 provisional stores. Also, there is one shop which deals with cattle feeds, pesticides and fertilizers. There are 8 small match industries in this town. Regarding the drinking water supply, this town has one overhead tank with 35,000 litres capacity. Drinking water is supplied to the public through 22 public fountains situated at various parts of this town. Also there are 3 open wells and 6 borewells fitted with hand pumps. This town does not have either a government hospital or a
private nursing homes/clinics. The people in this town avail the medical facilities available at the government hospital or the private hospitals at Pollachi.

Thus, even though Chinnampalayam town is not having some basic urban amenities, it is still experiencing a comparatively higher growth and acts as a residential suburban area of Pollachi.

VEERAPANDI

Veerapandi town is in Palladam taluk in Coimbatore district. It is about 10kms from Palladam and about 52 kms from Coimbatore. This town was treated as an urban area for the first time in the 1971 census, and it is a class - V town according to the 1981 census. The total urban area of this town remains the same as 11.64 sq.kms from 1961 census onwards. The total population of this town had decreased from 6361 persons in 1961 to 4,671 persons in 1971, at the rate of -26.57 per cent, which is comparatively much less than the Tamilnadu's general and urban population growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). According to the 1981 census, the total population of this town again increased to 6112 persons with a decennial population growth rate of 30.85 per cent during the 1971-81 period, which is comparatively higher than the Tamilnadu's general population growth rate (17.50 per cent) and urban population growth rate (27.58 per cent) during the same period.

The total number of occupied residential houses in this
town had increased from 368 houses in 1961 to 763 houses in 1971 and 1263 houses in 1981. But the total number of households in this town had decreased from 1369 households in 1961 to 990 households in 1971 and it again increased to 1274 households according to the 1981 census.

The scheduled caste population in this town had decreased from 974 persons in 1961 to 762 persons in 1971 and it again increased to 873 persons in the 1981 census. The rate of growth of scheduled caste population in this town during 1971-'81 decade was 14.57 per cent which is less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent). Veerapandi town had no persons belonging to scheduled tribes in any censuses. The residential segregation index of the scheduled casts in this town works out to 62.89 in 1971 and it had slightly decreased to 62.43 in 1981.

The literates and educated persons in this town had increased from 1,283 persons in 1961 to 6610 persons in 1971, a growth of 25.49 per cent, which is less than the rate of growth of educated persons in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census this town had 2788 educated persons. The educated persons in this town during 1971-81 had grown at the rate of 73.17 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of educated persons in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent).
The working population in this town had decreased from 3,179 workers in 1961 to 2,033 workers in 1971, a decline of 36.05 per cent according to 1981 census, this town had 2,915 workers. During 1971-'81 period, the total workers in this town had increased at the rate of 43.38 per cent which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamilnadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (32.78 per cent).

Veerapandi town had 319 workers under cultivators category according to the 1961 census this had decreased to 171 workers and 251 workers according to 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. Where as, the agricultural labourers in this town had increased from 294 workers in 1961 to 327 workers in 1971, a growth of 11.22 per cent only. According to 1981 census, this town had 669 workers under agricultural labourers category. During 1971-'81 decade, this category had increased at the rate of 104.59 per cent, which is markedly by higher than the rate of growth of agricultural labourers in Tamilnadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (26.10 per cent). Even though, there is much cultivable land in and around this town, it mainly depends upon the rain. However, some cultivators were able to cultivate crops with the help of small amount of water from their wells. Many farmers were not able to cultivate their lands because of poor and irregular rainfalls during the monsoon seasons. It is because of this, as many as 30 cultivator families and 10 agricultural labourers families had moved towards Palladam and Dharapuram areas are settled down during the 1962-65 period.
The manufacturing at household industry had 1,255 workers according to 1961 census and it had decreased to 400 workers and 474 workers according to the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The manufacturing other than household industries had increased from 500 workers in 1961 to 539 workers in 1971. The main manufacturing industry in this town is manufacturing of handloom clothes and khadi clothes. The Khadi and village industries commission had established a co-operative society to help the handloom weavers. This store supplies the raw materials to the weavers and it takes back the finished clothes. This society also provides some incentives to the weavers besides paying attractive price for the manufactured cloth. Eventhough this society is offering some help to the weavers, it is because of poor income as many as 200 families had changed their occupation and settled down at Tiruppur and Palladam. Many of the migrants to Tiruppur found regular employment in hosiery industries and the migrants to Palladam got employment in the textile mills.

The trade and commerce category had 100 workers and 172 workers according to the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. Similarly, the transport and communication category had 40 workers and 167 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The other services had 459 workers in 1961 and 235 workers in 1971. This town had 1,521 workers under other workers category and 27 workers under marginal workers category, according to the 1981 census. The non-workers in this town had decreased from 3,182 persons in 1961 to 2,638 persons in 1971, and it again increased to 3,170 persons according to 1981 census. During the
1961 and 1971 censuses Veerpandi was a manufacturing town based on the predominant economic function of the work force in this town.

This town had very low urban facilities when compared with other urban centres in many aspects like sanitation, medical institutions, drinking water, educational institutions etc. This town is provided with only one elementary school. Also there is one private English medium nursery school. This town is not having either a government hospital or private hospitals. This town has 3 open wells and 4 borewells fitted with hand pumps. Also, there are 5 public connections which provide drinking water supply to this town. Normally, during the summer seasons, there will be acute drinking water problem in this town. With regard to commercial establishments, Veerpandi town had 4 petty shops, 3 tea stalls and 3 provisional stores only.

During the recent years, it is due to the Government of India's export policy and other factors, the hosiery units at Tiruppur city started growing like anything. Likewise, other allied industries like bleaching, dyeing, tailoring, etc. also started growing in a massive way. In the recent past, it is due to non-availability of space at Tiruppur city for permitting industry and its allied activities, and also for housing purpose there establishment had started moving towards its sub-urbs. In this way, in Veerpandi town also, there are about 6 small hosiery units besides 2 bleaching and dyeing industries, and 5 tailoring shops. Similarly, Veerpandi town also fulfills the housing needs
of the migrants to Tiruppur city. Thus, after 1978, Veerapandi slowly started experiencing in-migratory flow also. Thus, after 1978, as many as 175 families were migrated and settled down in this town and it is still receiving new migrants.

ATHIMARAPATTI

Athimarapatti town is in Tuticorin taluk of Tirunelveli district. It is about 10kms from Tuticorin and about 50 kms from Tirunelveli. Eventhough this town has been treated as an urban area since 1971, it is a village panchayat till now. The total urban area of this town remains the same as 5.78 square kilometres from 1961 census onwards. The total population of this town had increased from 1,388 persons in 1961 to 3,010 persons in 1971, a growth of 116.86 per cent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of general and urban population in Tamilnadu. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 6,058 persons. The total population of this town recorded a decennial growth rate of 101.26 per cent during 1971-81 decade, which is again comparatively higher than the rate of growth of general and urban population of Tamilnadu.

The total number of occupied residential houses had increased from 328 in 1961 and 642 in 1971 and 1,339 in 1981. Similarly, the total number of households in this town had also increased from 350 in 1961 to 686 and 1,385 households in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.
The scheduled caste persons in this town had increased from 288 persons in 1961 to 480 in 1971, a growth of 66.67 per cent which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamilnadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (36.67 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, this town had 867 persons belonging to scheduled castes. This category had recorded a growth of 80.63 per cent which is again comparatively higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamilnadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (41.52 per cent) during the same decade. This town had no persons belonging to scheduled tribes. The residential segregation index of the scheduled castes in this town works out to 51.47 in 1971 and 38.79 in 1981 censuses.

The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 750 persons in 1961 to 1,275 persons in 1971, a growth of 70 per cent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamilnadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (56.55 per cent). According to the 1981 census this town had 3009 literate persons. During 1971-81 decade, the literate persons in this town had grown at the rate of 136 per cent which is again marked higher than the rate of growth of literates in Tamilnadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (44.08 per cent).
The total workers in this town had increased from 658 persons in 1961 to 1,133 persons in 1971, a growth of 72.19 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamilnadu (-3.97 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamilnadu (21.82 per cent). The total workers in this town had increased to 2,394 persons in 1981. During 1971-81 period, the working population of this town had increased at the rate of 111.28 per cent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamilnadu (28.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (32.78 per cent).

According to 1961 census, this town had 187 workers under cultivators category and it had increased to 286 persons in 1971, a growth of 52.94 per cent. According to 1981 census, this town had 525 workers under cultivators category. During 1971-'81 period, the cultivators had increased at the rate of 83.57 per cent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamilnadu (2.51 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamilnadu (2.51 per cent). Similar trend is observed in the case of workers under agricultural labourers category also. It is due to the canal irrigation facility, the cultivators and agricultural labourers category had shown a steady increase over the years. The main crops cultivated in this area are paddy and plantain. The agricultural sector had attracted about 50 families from Ramanathapuram district during 1972-'74 period.
The manufacturing at household industry category had no workers in 1961. But there are only 2 workers in 1971 and 3 workers in 1981 in this category. The manufacturing category other than household industry had 250 workers in 1961 and it had increased to 488 workers in 1971. The trade and commerce category had 27 workers in 1961 and 44 workers in 1971. The other services category had 18 workers and 62 workers in 1961 and 1971 census respectively. The predominant economic function of this was agriculture in 1961 and it became a manufacturing town in 1971.

Most of the people from this town go to Tuticorin and its surrounding areas for extracting salt from the sea water. This occupation had attracted many migrants to Tuticorin and its surrounding areas. It is due to non-availability of houses at Tuticorin, higher rent etc. about 75 families had migrated to this town. Similarly, about 100 families that settled down in this town are all working at SPIC company which is located about 2 kms from this town.

With regard to drinking water facilities, the town has one overhead tank with 30,000 litres capacity. Protected water is supplied through 500 individual house connections and 30 public fountains.

Considering the commercial establishments, the town is having 2 maligai shops, 5 petty shops and 3 tea stalls. Also
there are two rice mills and 2 fertilizer and pesticides shops. There is no industrial establishment in this town.

With regard to the educational institutions, the town is having only one panchayat union elementary school. However there are 2 private nursery schools. For high school and higher secondary education, the students go either to SPIC nagar, which is about 2kms from this town or to Tuticorin.

Thus, due to the prosperity of agricultural activities, expansion of Tuticorin city and due to SPIC company, this town experienced a high rate of growth of population over the years.

CONCLUSION

The eight towns selected under this category for field work are 1. Sivagiri patti, 2. Thirusulam, 3. Madipakkam, 4. Perungudi 5. Surampatti 6. Chinnampalayam, 7. Veerapandi and 8. Attimarapatti. All the above mentioned towns are part of urban agglomeration of various big urban centres. Sivagiri patti town forms a part of Palani urban agglomeration. Thirusulam, Madipakkam and Perungudi forms constituent units of Madras urban agglomeration. Surampatty town forms a part of Erode urban agglomeration. Chinnampalayam is a constituent unit of Pollachi urban agglomeration, Veerapandi forms a part of Tiruppur urban agglomeration, Veerapandi forms a part of Tiruppur urban agglomeration and Attimarapatti town is a constituent unit of
Tuticorin urban agglomeration. There are as many as 54 stone crushers in Thirusulam town and each crusher requires at least 35 to 40 persons at a time this had attracted a heavy inflow of people into this town. Similarly many industrial and manufacturing establishments in the nearby towns also attracted many people to this town. Madipakkam town is mainly a sub-urban residential area. Many housing colonies were established in this town. Regarding Perungudi town, many educational institutions are situated very nearer to this town, and the establishment of an electronic industrial estate in this town had played a vital role in the growth of this town. The establishment of various industries like textile, calendaring and printing, sizing mills, edible oil mills had contributed to the growth of Surampatti town.

Thus, in many towns there are various industrial and manufacturing establishments. These industrial establishments also played a vital role in the growth of the towns. In addition to this, most of the towns in this category served as suburban housing areas. Many new housing and residential colonies were established. Most of the persons commute daily to the cities for various purposes like official, business, schooling etc. Since these towns started growing into suburban residential localities, they lack in basic urban amenities, infra-structural and service facilities. It is because of these reasons, the above mentioned towns have low urbanity index and high rate of growth of population.
TOWNS WITH LOW URBANITY INDEX AND LOW RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION:

Towns which have recorded low urban infrastructural facilities and low rate of growth of population were 45. The eight sample towns are 1. Seppaiyapuram, 2. Kulasekarapattinam, 3. Nattarasankottai, 4. Kayathar, 5. Vellalore, 6. Alwarthirunagiri, 7. Keeranur and 8. Kottaiyur. The individual cases are briefly reported below:

1. SEPPAIYAPURAM

Seppaiyapuram is in the Tiruchengode taluk of Salem district. This town was treated as an urban area for the first time in the 1971 census. This town form a part of the Mallasamudram urban agglomeration. The total urban area of this town remains the same as 1.19 sq.kms from 1961 census onwards. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 835 persons and it had decreased to 833 persons in 1971 a decline of -0.24 per cent during 1961-'71 period. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 785 persons. The total population of this town during 1971-'81 decade had decreased at the rate of -5.76 per cent.
According to 1961 census, there were 175 occupied residential houses and this had increased to 190 houses in 1971 and 194 houses in 1981. According to 1961 census, there were 190 households in this town and this had increased to 207 households in 1971 and decreased to 194 households in 1981.

According to 1961 census, this town had 138 scheduled caste persons, and this had decreased to 102 persons in 1971 and 97 persons in 1981. This town had no scheduled tribe population at all. The residential segregation index of scheduled caste in this town works out to 54.21 in 1981.

According to 1961 census, this town had 116 educated and literate persons, this had increased to 209 persons and 248 persons in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

Regarding the working population of this town, there were 562 workers in 1961 and this had decreased to 496 workers in 1971, a decline of -11.74 per cent which is markedly less than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent). The workers in this town again decreased to 419 workers in 1981, a decline of -15.52 per cent during 1971-'81 period, which
is again markedly less than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent) during the same period.

This town had 191 workers under cultivators category in 1961, and it had decreased to 178 workers, a decline of -6.81 per cent during 1971-'81 period. The town had 112 workers under cultivators category according to 1981 census.

There were only 12 workers under agricultural labourers category according to 1961 census. This had increased to 208 workers in 1971 and decreased to just 100 workers in 1981 census. Previously, the main occupation of the workers in this town was hand-loom weaving. As they were not able to compete with power looms, and because of the increasing cost of the raw materials and poor income, many of them became agricultural labourers. In recent years, it is due to irregular rain, poor and irregular agricultural employment opportunities, about 50 families had out migrated to various other parts seeking better employment opportunities.

According to 1961 census, this town had 246 workers under manufacturing at household industry category. This had decreased to 91 workers and in 1971 improved to 141 workers
in 1981. In the case of workers under other services category, from 106 workers in 1961, it had decreased to 12 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, this town had 66 workers under other workers category and 28 workers under marginal workers category. Based on the economic function, this town was a manufacturing town in 1961 and it became an agricultural town in 1971.

Eventhough this town has been treated as an urban area, still it is a village panchayat. This town does not have any urban facilities like medical facilities, educational facilities, etc. This town has only one elementary school. For high school and higher secondary education, the students go either to Mallasamudram or to Attayampatti, which is about 4 kms from this town. Similarly for medical treatment the people from this town go either to Mallasamudram town or to Tiruchengode town.

This town is provided with an overhead tank of 12,500 litres capacity water is being supplied through 5 public fountains provided at various parts of this town. Besides this, the town also has a borewell with hand pump. Regarding commercial establishments, there are 2 petly shops, 2 provisional stores, 2 tea stalls and one cycle shop.
Seppaiyapuram is a typical example of a rural town sustaining by its handloom industry and agricultural prosperity. Since, this town could not modernise its handloom weaving, its industrial base is eroded. In the absence of adequate water facilities for irrigation, even its agricultural economic importance is decreasing. The net result is economic non-viability to sustain even the tempo of natural growth. Handloom weavers move out to centres of powerloom to work for wages. Agriculturists seek agricultural work and move out as agricultural labourers. The middle strata of society tries its economic opportunities else where in big urban centres. The net result is a slow and steady decrease in its population, houses and economic opportunities. This is a typical case of decaying town.

2. KULASEKARAPATTINAM

Kulasekarapattinam town is in Tiruchendur taluk of Tirunelveli district. It is located at a distance of 15 kms towards the south of Tiruchendur and is about 65 kms from Tirunelveli. The total urban area of this town remained 9.07 sq.kms in the 1961 and 1971 censuses. The total population of this town was 10,679 persons in 1961. It had increased to 11,544 persons in 1971, a growth of 8.10 per cent, which is markedly
less than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 7310 persons, a decline of -36.68 per cent during 1971-'81 period, which is markedly less than the Tamil Nadu's general population as well as urban population growth rates (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively) during the same decade.

According to 1981 census, Kulasekarapattinam town was divided into three parts namely, Kulasekarapattinam (urban) with an area of 5.75 sq.kms and a population of 7310 persons, Kulasekarapattinam (rural) with an area of 351.18 hectares and a population of 1476 persons, and Manapad (rural) with an area of 453.57 hectares and a population of 5035 persons. The actual rate of growth of population of Kulasekarapattinam, for the period 1971-'81 has to take all the above said units in to consideration. Therefore, this territorial change and the population involved has to be taken in to account.

1981, Kulasekarapattinam (urban), Kulasekarapattinam (rural) and Manapad (rural) together had 13,821 persons. (7310 persons + 1476 persons + 5035 persons). The actual rate of growth works
out to 19.72 per cent. This is higher than the rate of growth of Tamil Nadu's general population (17.50 per cent) and less than the rate of growth of Tamil Nadu's urban population (27.58 per cent) during the same decade.

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 2261 houses in 1961 to 2457 houses in 1971. Similarly, the total number of households in this town had increased from 2402 households in 1961 to 2540 households in 1971.

With regard to the scheduled caste population, this town had 172 persons belonging to scheduled castes in 1961, it had increased to 564 persons in 1971. The town had no persons belonging to scheduled tribes. The residential segregation index of the scheduled caste population of this town works out to 77.38 in 1971.

According to 1961 census, this town had 5594 literate persons. This category had increased to 6577 persons in 1971, a growth of 17.57 per cent only, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during the same decade.
According to 1961 census, there were 3921 workers in this town, and this had decreased to 2,978 workers in 1971, a decline of -24.05 per cent. This is markedly less than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent) during the same period.

The workers under cultivators category had increased from 59 workers in 1961 to 100 persons in 1971. Similarly, the workers under agricultural labourers category had also increased from 14 workers in 1961 to 149 workers in 1971.

The workers under manufacturing at household industries had drastically decreased from 1459 workers in 1961 to 282 workers in 1971. This town and its surrounding areas of this town have more palmyrah trees, the main occupation of the people in this area is toddy tapping, Gur making, manufacturing of palm leaf products like household articles, palmyrah mats, fancy goods, toys, etc.

The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had increased from 186 workers in 1961 to 452 workers in 1971, a growth of 143.01 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category.
in Tamil Nadu (53.53 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (47.99 per cent) during the same period. This is because many household industries in this town had just changed their names as small scale industries, just to get financial assistance from the government and from the nationalised banks. Naturally, the workers under this category will be included in the workers under manufacturing other than household industries category. Also, there are many stainless steel vessels and aluminium vessels manufacturing industries around Tiruchendur. Most of the workers in this town are working in these industries also.

The workers under trade and commerce category had 318 workers in 1961 and 405 workers in 1971 census. The trade and transport category had 234 workers and 174 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The workers under other services category had decreased from 770 workers in 1961 to 574 workers in 1971. The predominant economic function of this town was manufacturing in 1961 and 1971 censuses.

According to 1981 census, Kulasekarapattinam town had 1621 occupied residential houses and 1681 households. The total population of this town was 7310 persons of which 372 persons belonging to scheduled castes. There were 4306 literate
persons and 1963 workers in this town. The cultivators category had 192 workers, the agricultural labourers category had 137 workers and the manufacturing at household industries category had 150 workers. There were 1484 workers under other workers category and 51 workers under marginal workers category.

If we take Kulasekarapattinam (Urban), Kulasekarapattinam (rural) and Manappad (rural) of 1981 as Kulasekarapattinam town, according to 1981 census, the following trend emerges:

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 2457 in 1971 to 2764 in 1981. Similarly, the total number of households in this town had increased from 2540 in 1971 to 2851 in 1981. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 13821 persons, of which 570 persons belonging to scheduled castes. There were 8746 literate persons and 3880 workers in this town. The cultivators, category had 231 workers, agricultural labourers category had 235 workers and manufacturing at household industry category had 386 workers. There were 3028 workers under other workers category and 286 workers under marginal workers category.
With regard to commercial establishments, there are 5 provisional stores, 6 petty shops, 3 cycle shops, 3 tea stalls and a pesticides and fertilizer shop in this town.

This town has an overhead tank with 20,000 litres capacity. Protected water is being supplied through 15 public fountains and 250 individual house connections. Also, there are 3 bore wells fitted with hand pumps in this town.

Regarding the educational institutions, there is a higher secondary school, 2 higher elementary schools and 2 primary schools in this town. Also, there is an English medium nursery school in this town.

There is no government or private hospitals in this town. Two medical practitioners have their consulting clinics in this town. For the treatment of major diseases, the people of this town seek the medical facilities available at Tiruchendur.

The agricultural sector in this town had retained its tempo over the years. Between 1961 and 1970, many families under manufacturing at household industry category had suffered because of poor income from the household industries and migrated to various other parts from this town. Also, the small scale stainless and aluminium vessels manufacturing units around
Tiruchendur provides employment opportunity to some extent only. For want of regular and better employment opportunities, many families had migrated from this town. Eventhough, this town experiences out migration, the population of this town had grown at the rate of about 20 per cent during 1971-'81 period, and not as reported in the census of India reports.

3. NATTARASANKOTTAI:

Nattarasankottai is in the Sivagangai taluk of Ramanathapuram district. It is located at a distance of 8 kms towards the east of Sivangangai. This town was treated as an urban area in the 1931 census and it continues to be an urban area in the later censuses. The total area of this town remains the same as 13.34 sq.kms from the 1961 census onwards.

According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 4511 persons and this had increased to 4797 persons in 1971, a growth of 6.34 per cent. This is comparatively less than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 4855 persons and the population growth rate during 1971-'81 decade was 1.21 per cent only.
This is again markedly less than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates during the same decade (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively).

According to 1961 census, there were 1009 occupied residential houses in this town. It had decreased to 957 houses in 1971 and it increased to 1211 houses in 1981. The total number of households in this town had increased from 1113 households in 1961 to 1172 households and 1211 households in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

According to 1961 census, there were 412 persons belonging to scheduled castes in this town and it had increased to 502 persons in 1971, a growth of 21.85 per cent, which is slightly higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) but less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, there were 402 scheduled caste persons in this town. The scheduled caste population of this town had decreased at the rate of -19.92 per cent during 1971-'81 period, which is comparatively less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu.
This town had 29 persons belonging to scheduled tribes, according to 1981 census, and it had no scheduled tribe population in the previous censuses. The residential segregation index of the scheduled caste population in this town works out to 82.04 in 1971 and it had increased to 51.71 in 1981. This is because a large scale out migration of scheduled caste population from this town.

According to 1961 census, this town had 2117 literate persons, this had increased to 2298 persons in 1971, a growth of 8.55 per cent only, which is meakeldly less than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during the same period. According to 1981 census, this town had 2607 literate persons. The literate persons of this town had increased at the rate of 13.45 per cent only during 1971-'81 period. This is again markedly less than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamil Nadu and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent and 44.08 per cent) during the same decade.

The total workers in the Nattarasankottai town had decreased from 1616 workers in 1961 to 1238 workers in 1971, a decline of -23.39 per cent, which is comparatively less than
the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent) during the same period. According to 1981 census, this town had 1414 workers. During 1971-'81 period, the working population of this town had increased at the rate of 14.22 per cent. This is again markedly less than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent and 32.78 per cent respectively) during the same decade.

The workers under cultivators category had increased from 409 workers in 1961 to 424 workers in 1971, a growth of 3.67 per cent, which is comparatively higher than the rate of growth of cultivators category in Tamil Nadu (-28.65 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (-10.82 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, there were 545 workers under this category. The workers under this category had increased at the rate of 26.18 per cent during 1971-'81 period. This is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under cultivators category in Tamil Nadu (20.65 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (2.51 per cent) during the same period. The workers under agricultural labourers category had increased from 78
workers in 1961 to 217 workers in 1971, and it decreased to 199 workers in 1981. With the help of availability of water in the tanks, the farmers cultivate crops like vegetables, cotton, tobacco, ragi, etc. And hence the cultivators category had maintained its tempo over the years. But, the agricultural labourers in this town were not able to get regular employment opportunities and many families belonging to this category had migrated to Tanjore and Madurai districts for want of better employment opportunities during 1971-’80 period.

With regard to manufacturing at household industry category, this town had 111 workers under this category in 1961, 16 workers in 1971 and 33 workers in 1981. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had also decreased from 106 workers in 1961 to 72 workers in the 1971 census. The main household industry in this area is manufacturing of boxes and other articles from Palmyra leaves. It is because of very poor income from this occupation, many families suffered and a considerable out migration had been reported among the workers under this category over the years.

According to 1961 census, there were 156 workers under trade and commerce category, and this had slightly decreased
to 154 workers in 1971. The trade and commerce category had 21 workers and 31 workers in 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The workers under other services had decreased from 641 workers in 1961 to 246 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, this town had 647 workers under other workers category and 30 workers under marginal workers category. Based on the predominant economic function of the work force, Nattarasankottai was a service town in 1961 and became an agricultural town in 1971 census.

Sivagangai taluk is industrially most backward area and has no major manufacturing or industrial establishments. Previously, many persons used to go to Sivagangai daily from this town for office work and other works. Between 1961 and 1970, about 35 families had migrated and settled down at Sivagangai. Also, during the 1970's, many small-scale industries were started at Sivagangai, because of the various incentives provided by the government. Because of this also, about 75 families had migrated to Sivagangai for want of employment opportunities from this town. Also many Nattarasankottai chettiar families had migrated to various other places like Madurai, Madras etc., to start their business.
Regarding drinking water facilities, this town has 6 tanks and 8 open wells. There is an overhead tank with a capacity of 5,000 litres and 3 borewells fitted with hand pumps. Water is being supplied through 15 public fountains provided at various parts of this town.

Nattarasankottai town has a government dispensary, and a medical practitioner has a consulting clinic in this town. There is no hospitals with in-patient facilities in this town. For the treatment of major diseases, the people avail the facilities available at Sivagangai.

Considering the commercial institutions, there are 7 provisional stores, 8 petty shops, 2 cloth cum tailoring shops, 6 tea stalls, 2 hotels and a medical store.

Regarding the educational institutions, the town has a government higher secondary school, a government high school and 2 elementary schools. Also there are 2 English-medium nursery schools in this town.

There is no major industrial or manufacturing establishments in this area. It is because of this, the work force in this town does not have regular employment opportunities and many families suffered. For want of regular and better employment
opportunities, a large number of families had migrated to various parts from this town. Also, many Nattukkottai chettiar families had also migrated from this town. And hence, Nattarasankottai town experiencing out migration trends over the years.

4.KAYATHAR

Kayathar town is in the Kovilpatty taluk of the Tirunelveli district. Kayathar is about 29 kms from Tirunelveli and 27 kms from Kovilpatty. This town was treated as an urban area for the first time in the 1931 census. This is a place of historical importance where in a famous Tamil Chieftain namely Veerapandia Kattabomman, who fought against the British rule in India was handged to death by the English rulers. The total area of this town remains the same as 19.36 sq.kms from the 1961 census onwards.

The total population of this town had increased from 5168 persons in 1961 to 7107 persons in 1971, a growth of 37.52 which is comparatively higher than the Tamil Nadu's general population growth rate (22.30 per cent) and slightly less than the Tamil Nadu's urban population growth rate (38.64 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 6961 persons, which had decreased at the rate of -2.05 per cent during 1971-'81 decade.
The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 1112 houses in 1961 to 1546 houses in 1971. Between 1971 and 1981 it had decreased to 1502. The total number of households in this town had increased from 1196 in 1961 to 1659 households in 1971. In the next decade it had decreased to 1510, a decrease of 10 per cent of the households.

The scheduled caste population in this town had increased from 464 persons in 1961 to 878 persons in 1971, a growth of 89.22 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, there were 991 persons belonging to scheduled castes, a growth of 12.78 per cent only during 1971-'81 period, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent) during the same decade. The residential segregation index of scheduled castes of this town works out to 63.34 in 1971 and 80.14 in 1981. In this context of increasing
segregation of the scheduled castes, the frequent conflict between the Thevar Community and scheduled castes is to be noted. A few migrant scheduled caste families who lived intermixed with other communities were also forced to seek shelter with their caste people.

The educated and literate population of this town had increased from 2067 persons in 1961 to 2987 persons in 1971, a growth of 44.51 per cent, which is comparatively less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 34,34 persons. The educated persons in this town had increased at the rate of 15.08 per cent during 1971-'81 period. This is again comparatively less than the rate of growth of literates in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent) during the same decade.

The total workers of this town had increased from 2232 persons in 1961 to 2476 persons in 1971, a growth of 10.93 per cent, which is higher than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent) but less than the rate of growth of workers in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (21.82 per cent).
According to 1981 census, this town had 2980 workers, a growth of 20.36 per cent during 1971-'81 period, which is less than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent).

According to 1961 census, Kayathar town had 502 workers under cultivators category, it had increased to 623 workers in 1971, a growth of 20.72 per cent which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of cultivators in Tamil Nadu (-28.65 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (-10.82 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 606 workers under cultivators category. The workers under agricultural labourers category had increased from 162 workers in 1961 to 436 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, there were 787 workers under agricultural labourers category. The workers under agricultural labourers category in this town had grown at the rate of 80.51 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (26.10 per cent). The major crops usually cultivated by the farmers in this area are cotton, chillies, and ragi. Besides enjoying the employment opportunities, the agricultural labourers in this town go for
work in the surrounding villages also. It is due to the shortage of water for cultivation, and lack of rainfall during the monsoon seasons, many farmers were not able to do cultivation, and many of them became agricultural labourers.

The workers under manufacturing at household industries had decreased from 705 workers in 1961 to 186 workers and 462 workers in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. In the case of workers under manufacturing other than household category had increased from 93 workers in 1961 to 305 workers in 1971. The major manufacturing industries in this town are match factories, mat weaving, manufacturing of fancy and household articles from bamboo and palm leaves. There are 8 match factories, 3 mat weaving industries in this town. Also, there are 3 oil mills 4 flour mills and 3 rice mills.

The trade and commerce category had 268 workers and 331 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The transport and communication category had 34 workers in 1961 and 79 workers in 1971. Similarly, the other service category had 366 workers and 433 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. According to 1981 census, Kayathar town had 1125 workers under other workers category and 127 workers under
marginal workers category. According to 1961 and 1971 censuses, kyathar town was a manufacturing town.

Regarding the educational institutions in this town, there is one government higher secondary school, 2 government high schools. Students from the surrounding villages besides the students from this town also utilise the educational facilities available in this town.

Kayathar town is well provided with the protected water supply. This town has 20 open wells, 18 bore wells with hand pumps, 2 overhead tanks with 2 lakhs litres capacity each and one ground level reservoir. The water is being supplied through 500 house connections and 34 public connections provided at various parts of this town.

The town has a government primary health centre and 3 private nursing homes. Five doctors are having their consulting clinics in this town. This town has 4 medical stores. Kayathar town also has a government veterinary hospital.

Regarding commercial establishments, there are 8 hotels, 20 tea stalls, 8 petty shops, 7 provisional stores, 6 cloth stores, 10 tailoring shops, 7 cycle repairing shops in this town. There are also 5 welding and lathe works, 7 automobile
carriages, 2 automobile spare parts shops, 4 fertilizer and pesticide shops in this town.

Many workers, because of poor and irregular employment opportunities, had slowly out migrated to various other parts. Similarly the educated employed people, working at various places like Tirunelveli, Kovilpatti, etc., were not able to commute daily and because of this, about 30 families had out migrated from this town. Similarly, the match and fire works, printing works at Sivakasi and Kovilpatty and a cement factory at Sankarnagar near Tirunelveli had also contributed to out migration of people from this town to some extent.

5. VELLALORE

Vellalore town is in the Coimbatore district. This town is located at a distance of about 12 kms from Coimbatore and forms a part of the Coimbatore urban agglomeration. This town was treated as an urban area for the first time in the 1941 census and it still maintains its position as an urban area. The total area of this town was 16.18 sq.kms in 1961 census and it remained the same in the later censuses also.

The total population of Vellalore town had increased from 13277 persons in 1961 to 13432 persons in 1971, a growth of 1.17 per cent only, which is comparatively less than the Tamil
Nadu's general and urban population growth rates during the same period (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). According to 1981 census, the total population of this town was 13,843 persons, a growth rate of 3.06 per cent during 1971-'81 period, which is again markedly less than the rate of growth Tamil Nadu's general and urban population during the same period (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively).

According to 1961 census, there were 2068 occupied residential houses in this town, it had increased to 2,501 houses in 1971 and 3043 houses in 1981. Similarly, the total number of households in this town had increased from 2877 households, in 1961 to 2923 households and 3043 households in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

According to 1961 census, this town had 2,295 persons belonging to scheduled castes, this had decreased to 2022 persons in 1971 and it again increased to 2167 persons according to 1981 census. This town had no persons belonging to scheduled tribes. The residential segregation index of the scheduled caste population in this town works out to 83.48 in 1971 and 80.81 in 1981.
The educated and literate population in this town had increased from 4561 persons in 1961 to 6189 persons in 1971, a growth of 35.69 per cent, which is less than the growth of literate population in Tamil Nadu (53.64 percent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, this town had 7645 educated persons. The educated persons in this town had increased at the rate of 23.53 per cent during 1971-81 deccade, which is again less than to rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent) during the same decade.

Regarding the working population of Vellalore town it had 4877 workers according to 1961 census. In 1971, this had decreased to 4417 workers and it again increased to 4977 workers according to 1981 census. The workers under cultivators category had decreased from 624 workers in 1961 to 492 workers in 1971 and it again increased to 549 workers in 1981. The workers under agricultural labourers category had increased from 1028 workers in 1961 to 1060 workers and 1461 workers according to 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. There are many cultivable lands in and around this town. With the help of water available in the wells the cultivators cultivate crops.
like sugarcane, cotton, vegetables, etc. The agricultural labourers also get employment opportunities in the surrounding villages.

The workers under manufacturing at household industry category had 608 workers in 1961 census. This had slightly increased to 615 workers in 1971 and 422 workers in 1981. The manufacturing other than household industry category had 1318 workers and 1428 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The major manufacturing industries in this town are textile industries -both hand loom and power loom. Many workers are engaged in hand loom weaving. Also there are about 6 textile mills very close to this town.

The trade and commerce category had 229 workers in 1961 and 225 workers in 1971. The transport and communication category had 94 workers and 118 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. The other services had 873 workers and 424 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. According to 1981 census, Vellalore town had 2545 workers under other workers category and 8 workers under marginal workers category. According to 1961 and 1971 censuses, this town was a manufacturing town based on the predominant economic function of its workers.
Regarding the educational institutions in this town, there is one government high school and one government primary school. Also there are 2 English-medium nursery schools. For higher secondary level education, the students go to Podhanur.

Vellalore town has no government primary health centre or hospital. Also, there is no private nursing homes in this town. One doctor has his consulting clinic in this town. For medical treatments the people have to go to Podhanur or to Coimbatore.

Regarding the protected water supply, this town has 5 open wells and bore wells with handpumps. There is an overhead tank with 30,000 litres capacity, and drinking water supply is being made through 300 individual house connections and 28 public fountains at various parts of this town.

Regarding the commercial establishments, there are 8 petty shops, 6 tea stalls, 3 hotels, 5 provisional stores, 8 cycle repairing centres, 2 biscuit bakeries, 2 fire-wood depots and 3 tailoring shops.

As far as Vellalore town is concerned, between 1961 and 1970, about 50 families belonging to scheduled castes had
migrated to Coimbatore city and Tiruppur for want of employment opportunities. The handloom weavers were not able to compete with that of powerloom and textile establishments and it was due to rise in the cost of raw materials and poor returns, they were not able to sustain in that occupations and as many as 30 families had migrated from this town to Tiruppur and Coimbatore. Similarly many educated and employed persons had shifted their residence to Coimbatore. Though this town is the part of urban agglomeration of Coimbatore, it is located in an interior area. The agricultural prosperity is limited by short supply of water for lift irrigation. The absence of a good transportation and communication network hinders urban migrants to settle down in this town. Even the locals prefer to move to suburban areas closer to national and state highways for better service facilities. In the absence of inflow of migrants and continuous steady outflow of locals, the growth of population is literally coming down.

6. ALWARTHIRUNAGIRI

Alwarthirunagiri town is in Tiruchendur taluk in Tirunelveli district. It is about 22kms from Tiruchendur and 32kms from Tirunelveli. This town is located on the southern bank of the river Tambraparani. This town is the birth place
of "Nammazhvar". "Sri Adhinadha Alwar kovil" and "Udayavar koil" are the two big temples in this town. Festivals are celebrated during the Tamil months of Chitrai, Vaikasi, Masi and Panguni. It is estimated that about 6,000 devotees attend these functions from various parts of the state.

The total area of this town remains the same as 9.10 sq.kms from 1961 census onwards. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 6753 persons. It had increased to 8,132 persons in 1971, a growth of 20.42 per cent, which is less than the population growth rate of the state (22.03 per cent) and the urban population growth rate of the state (38.64 per cent). According to 1981 census, the population of this town was 8114 persons, a decline of -0.22 per cent during 1971-81 decade.

The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 1688 houses in 1961 to 1935 in 1971 and 1962 in 1981. The total number of households in this town had increased from 1705 in 1951 to 1980 in 1971 and 1964 in 1981.

According to 1961 census, this town had only 97 persons belonging to scheduled castes. This had increased to 821 persons in 1971 and 968 persons in 1981. Between 1961-and
1970, about 100 families had migrated to this town from Tiruchi district and most of them had been agricultural labourers. This town had no scheduled tribe population in 1961 and 1971 censuses, and in 1981, the town had only 17 persons under this category. The residential segregation index of the scheduled caste population of this town works out to 80.82 in 1971 and 79.96 in 1981.

The educated and literate persons in this town had increased from 3902 persons in 1961 to 4999 persons in 1971, a growth rate of 28.11 per cent, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, this town had 5179 educated persons.

With regard to workers in this town, there were 2013 workers in 1961, which had increased to 2364 workers in 1971 and 2266 workers in 1981. The workers under cultivators category had slightly decreased from 518 workers in 1961 to 500 workers in 1971 and it again increased to 600 workers in 1981. Under agricultural labourers category there were only 28 workers in 1961. But it had increased to 470 workers in 1971 and 398 workers in 1981. As already stated, the river Tambraparani is running on the northern side of this town, and the south
main canal, which is the main source of water to the agricultural lands is running on the southern end of this town. And hence, the cultivators and agricultural labourers category maintains its tempo over the years.

The manufacturing at household industry category had 284 workers in 1961, it had decreased to 119 workers and 229 workers in 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. It is due to heavy competition in the case of small scale industries like match factory, manufacturing of incense sticks, Bottery, etc. Many people had changed their occupation and many people had moved to other parts of the district. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had increased from 120 workers in 1961 to 242 workers in 1971.

The workers under trade and commerce category had increased from 272 workers in 1961 to 394 workers in 1971. Under transport and communication category, there were only 51 workers in 1961, and it had increased to 109 workers in 1971. In the case of workers under other services category, the town had 665 workers in 1961 and it had decreased to 481 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, there were 1039 workers under other workers category and 147 workers under marginal workers
category. According to 1961 and 1971 census, Alwarthirunagiri was a service town.

A protected water supply scheme has been executed at a cost of 50 lakhs and an overhead tank with a capacity of 4 lakhs litres have been constructed. Water is being pumped from the river and supplied through 28 public fountains provided at various parts of this town. Besides this, the town has 5 open wells and 6 bore wells fitted with hand pumps.

With regard to educational institutions, the town has 4 elementary schools, 3 higher elementary schools and one Higher Secondary school.

The town has 10 petty shops, 8 provisional stores, 2 hotels, 5 tea stalls, 5 cycle repairing shops and 2 medical stores. To cater to the needs of the agricultural community, there are 3 fertilizer and pesticides shop, 2 power sprayer servicing centres in this town. Also, there is one two wheeler workshop and a lathe and welding workshop. The town has 3 match factories, one printing press, 5 small scale industries which produce incense sticks, and 2 pottery manufacturing industries.
With regard to medical institutions, the town has a government dispensary and 2 private hospitals. Also four doctors have their consulting clinics in this town. The animal husbandry department has provided a veterinary hospital for his town.

The town is dominated by Brahmins in terms of population. However, there are Muslims, vellalars, maravars, Pillai and Adidravidas to a considerable amount. Previously, majority of the wet lands in and around this town belonged to the brahmins. Now a days, they were not able to manage these lands and they begin to sell these lands to others. As the younger generation got employment opportunities elsewhere, they also started moving with their wards. In this way about 125 brahmin families had migrated to various parts of the state.

In the case of muslims in this town, about 75 muslims are working in Gulf countries and about 50 muslim families had migrated to and started their business at Madras, Tiruchi and Nagapattinam. Thus, this town experiencing a continuous out migration streams.
7. KEERANUR

Keeranur is in the Palani taluk of Madurai district. It is about 16 kilometres from Palani. For the first time in 1951 census, this town was classified as an urban area and still it retains its position as an urban area. The total area town remains the same as 9.60 sq.kms from 1961 census onwards. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 5027 persons. This had increased to 6256 persons in 1971, a decennial growth rate of 24.45 per cent. This is comparatively higher than the general population growth rate in Tamil Nadu (22.03 per cent) and less than the Tamil Nadu's urban population growth rate (38.64 per cent). According to 1981 census, the total population of this town had decreased to 5396 persons, a decline of -13.75 per cent during 1971-81 decade, which is markedly less than the general as well as urban population growth rates in Tamil Nadu (17.50 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively) during the same decade.

There were 1050 occupied residential houses in this town in 1961 and it had increased to 1145 houses and 1162 houses in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. According to 1961 census, there were 1078 house holds in this town and it had increased to 1311 households in 1971 and reduced to 1180 households in 1981.
This town had 1451 scheduled caste persons in 1961 and this had increased to 1,566 persons in 1971, a growth of 7.93 per cent only which is markedly less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent and 36.67 per cent respectively) during the same decade. The scheduled caste population of this town had decreased to 1367 persons in 1981. The town had only 15 persons belonging to scheduled tribes in 1961 and subsequently it had no scheduled tribes population in 1971 and 1981 censuses. The residential segregation index of the scheduled caste population in this town works out to 80.09 in 1971 and 69.16 in 1981.

According to 1961 census, Keeranur town had 1968 literate persons. This had increased to 2616 persons in 1971, a growth of 32.93 per cent, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of literate population in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent). According to 1981 census, there were 2532 educated persons in this town, a clear case of out-migration of educated persons.

Regarding the total workers in this town, according to 1961 census, there were 1932 workers in this town and this had slightly increased to 1938 workers in 1971, more or less no growth in the case of working population in this town between
1961 and 1971. According to 1981 census, the workers in this town had decreased to 1912 persons, a decline of -1.34 per cent during 1971-81 period.

The cultivators category had shown a very marginal increase from 295 workers in 1961 to 321 workers in 1971 and it decreased to 123 workers in 1981. The workers under agricultural labourers category had shown a steady increase from just 46 workers in 1961 to 528 workers and 804 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The workers under agricultural labourers category had increased at the rate of 52.27 per cent during 1971-'81 period. This is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (26.10 per cent) during the same decade. The cultivators in this area cultivate vegetables, grams, plantain, sugarcane, paddy, betal leaves, etc. and it needs a lot of agricultural labourers.

Intensive agriculture demands continuous and increasing number of agricultural labourers. Modernisation in agriculture has ruined away submarginal and marginal farmers. Many of them have became agricultural labourers or moved out of the agricultural activities to non-farm activities.
The workers under manufacturing at household industry had decreased from 61 workers in 1961 to 17 workers and 49 workers in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had increased from 56 workers in 1961 to 73 workers in 1971.

The workers under trade and commerce category had increased from 409 workers in 1961 to 679 workers in 1971, a growth of 66.02 per cent which is slightly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (65.08 per cent) during the same period. The transport and communication category had 20 workers and 21 workers in the 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. According to 1961 census, there were 934 workers under other services category, and it had only 256 workers under this category in 1971 census. According to 1981 census, this town had 936 workers under other workers category and 12 workers under marginal workers category. According to 1961 census, this town was service town and became a trade town in 1971 census.

With regard to educational institutions, this town has one government higher secondary school, one high school
and one government elementary school. Students from this town, as well as from the surrounding villages avail these facilities. Also, there are 3 English-medium nursery schools and a shorthand and typewriting institute.

This town has an overhead tank with 40,000 litres capacity. Drinking water is supplied to the public through 18 public fountains provided at various parts of this town. Besides this, the town has 5 borewells fitted with hand pumps.

Considering the medical facilities available in this town, there is a government hospital with 25 beds capacity and 3 private nursing homes. Five medical practitioners have their consulting clinics in this town. Besides the people from this town people from the surrounding villages avail the medical facilities available in this town. Also, there are 3 medical stores in this town.

With regard to commercial establishments, there are 12 petty shops, 6 provisional stores, 5 hotels, 8 tea stalls 2 cloth stores, 6 tailoring shops, 4 fertilizer and pesticides stores, 5 cycle repairing shops, 2 two-wheeler and power sprayer workshops and one lathe and welding workshop in this town.

Between 1971 and 1980, as many as 50 families had migrated to Palani town a famous Hindu pilgrim centre to
business, and many of them got employment at Palani. About 70 families had migrated to Madurai and Dindigul areas, for want of better and regular employment opportunities. Thus, this town experiencing out migration trends over the years.

8. KOTTAIYUR

Kottaiyur town is in the Kariakudi taluk of Ramanathapuram district. It is located at a distance of 7 kms towards the south of Karikudi. This town form a part of Karaikudi urban agglomeration. This town was classified as an urban area in the 1931 census and it continues to be an urban area in the later censuses. According to 1961 census, the total population of this town was 5778 persons and it had increased to 6429 persons in 1971, a growth of 11.27 per cent, which is comparatively less than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates during the same decade (22.30 per cent and 38.64 per cent respectively). The total population of this town according to 1981 census was 6519 persons, a growth of 1.40 per cent during 1971-'81 period, which is again comparatively less than the Tamil Nadu's general as well as urban population growth rates during the same decades (17.5 per cent and 27.58 per cent respectively).
The total area of this town remains the same as 10.39 sq.kms in the 1961, 1971 and 1981 censuses. The total number of occupied residential houses in this town had increased from 1136 in 1961 to 1363 houses in 1971 and 1503 houses in 1981. Similarly, the total number of households in this town had increased from 1361 households in 1961 to 1458 households and 1503 households in the 1971 and 1981 censuses respectively.

According to 1961 census, there were 521 persons in this town belonging to scheduled castes, and this had increased to 629 persons in 1971, a growth of 20.73 per cent during 1961-'71 period, which is more or less same as the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (20.57 per cent) but comparatively less than the rate of growth of scheduled castes in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (36.67 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, this town had 589 persons belonging to scheduled castes. During 1971-'81 period. The scheduled caste population of this town had decreased at the rate of -6.36 per cent, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of scheduled caste population in Tamil Nadu (21.40 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (41.52 per cent) during the same decade. Kottaiyur town had no persons
belonging to scheduled tribe category. The residential segregation index of the scheduled caste population of this town works out to 71.69 in 1971 and 75.93 in 1981.

According to 1961 census, there were 2,333 literate persons in this town, and this had increased to 3380 persons in 1971, a growth of 44.88 per cent, during 1961-'71 period. This is markedly less than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (53.64 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (56.55 per cent) during the same decade. According to 1981 census, this town had 3891 literate persons. The literate persons in this town had grown at the rate of 15.12 per cent only, which is again comparatively less than the rate of growth of literate persons in Tamil Nadu (39.25 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (44.08 per cent) during the same decade.

Regarding the working population of this town according to 1961 census, there were 1599 workers. This had decreased to 1468 workers in 1971, a decline of -8.19 per cent, which is less than the rate of growth of workers in Tamil Nadu and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (-3.97 per cent and 21.82 per cent respectively) during 1961-'71 period. According to 1981,
there were 1513 workers in this town. During 1971-'81 period, the working population of this town had increased at the rate of 3.07 per cent only, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of working population in Tamil Nadu (29.06 per cent) and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (32.78 per cent) during the same decade.

The workers under cultivators category had decreased from 268 workers in 1961 to 146 workers in 1971, a decline of -45.52 per cent.

The workers under cultivators category in this town remains the same as 146 workers in the 1981 census also. According to 1961 census, the agricultural labourers category had only 56 workers and this had increased to 255 workers in 1971, and 390 workers in 1981. During 1971-'81 period, the agricultural labourers category had increased at the rate of 52.94 per cent, which is markedly higher than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu (34.47 per cent) and in the urban centres of Tamil Nadu (26.10 per cent) during the same decade. The cultivators category had shown any signs of improvement where as the agricultural labourers category had shown an increasing trend over the years.
The manufacturing at household industry had 17 workers in the 1961 census, it had increased to 49 workers in 1971 and it decreased to 41 workers in 1981 census. The workers under manufacturing other than household industry category had decreased from 130 workers in 1961 to 68 workers in 1971.

According to 1961 census, the trade and commerce category had 178 workers. This had increased to 184 workers in 1971, a growth of 3.37 per cent only, which is markedly less than the rate of growth of workers under this category in Tamil Nadu and in the urban areas of Tamil Nadu (52.21 per cent and 65.08 per cent respectively) during the same decade. The workers under transport and communication category had increased from 41 workers in 1961 to 83 workers in 1971. The workers under other services category had decreased from 780 workers in 1961 to 557 workers in 1971. According to 1981 census, Kottaiyur town had 936 workers under other workers category and 153 workers under marginal workers category. Kottaiyur was a service town in 1961 and 1971 censuses, based on the predominant economic function of its work force.

Regarding the educational institutions in this town, there is a government girl's higher secondary school and a
private co-education higher secondary school a government high school and an elementary schools. Also there are 2 English-medium nursery schools in this town. For higher learning, the students has to go to Karaikudi town, which is at a distance of 7kms from this town.

There are 4 tanks and 6 open wells which provides drinking water to the people of this town. Also there is an overhead tank with 10,000 litres capacity and 8 bore wells with hand pumps. Protected water is being supplied through 6 public fountains at various parts of the town.

Regarding the medical institutions, this town has a primary health centre, 2 private hospitals and 2 doctors have their consulting clinics in this town. Kottaiyur town also has 2 medical stores.

Regarding the commercial establishments, there are 10 tea stalls, 3 hotels, 6 provisional stores, 3 cycle repairing shops, 13 petty shops, 1 cloth store, 2 tailoring shops and 1 pesticides and cattlefeed shop in this town. Also there is a two-wheeler servicing centre in this town.

The agricultural sector in this area had shown no signs of improvement over the years. There is no major industrial
or manufacturing establishments in this area to provide regular employment to the people. Nattukottai chettiars are the most dominant caste in this town. Most of the Nattukottai chettiars had started their business like money lending, pawn broking, jewellery shops, cloth stores, etc. at various parts of the state. It is because of this reason, about 100 families belonging to this caste group had migrated to various parts of the state like Madurai, Tiruchi, Madras, etc. from this town. Similarly, about 50 families belonging to other castes had also migrated to various places like Tanjore, Tiruchi, etc. for want of better and regular employment opportunities and hence we see less population growth.

CONCLUSION

The eight towns selected for field work under this category are, Seppaiyapuram, Kulasekarapattinam, Nattarasankottai, Kayathar, Vellalore, Alwarthirunagiri, Keeranur, and Kotaiyur. In these towns, over the years, 3 towns namely Seppaiyapuram, Kulasekarapattinam & Nattarasankottai had shown a decreasing trend in the total workers category. Where as the total workers in 3 towns had shown an increasing trend and the total workers in the remaining 2 towns had shown a retaining trend. The cultivators category had shown a decreasing trend in 4 towns namely, Seppaiyapuram, Keeranur, Kotaiyur and vellalore, and the remaining 4 towns had shown a slow growth. The agricultural
labourers in these town had shown generally an increasing trend. There has been a decreasing trend among the workers engaged in the manufacturing at household industries, expect a retaining trend in Kottaiyur town. In the case of workers under manufacturing other than the household industry there has been a decreasing trend in the Kottaiyur and Nattarasankottai towns, an increasing trend in 4 towns namely, Kulasekarapattinam, Kayathar, Alwarthirunagiri, and Vellalore and a more or less retaining trend in 2 towns namely Seppaiyapuram and Keeranur. Among the towns which shows an increasing trend among the workers, engaged in manufacturing-other than household industries, new small scale industries had grown in number. In the Kayathar town, the major manufacturing industries are match factories, mat weaving industries and industries which produces fancy and household articles from bamboo and palm leaves. The major manufacturing industries in Alwarthirunagiri town are match factories, manufacturing of incense sticks and pottery manufacturing industries. The textile mills, and handloom mills provide employment opportunities in the Vellalore town.

In all other occupational categories, there has been a slow growth or retaining trend in all the towns. The other services category had shown a decreasing trend except a slow
growth in this category in the kayathar town.

Previously, these towns was mainly agricultural towns with one or more household industries like hand loom weaving, coir making, manufacturing of fancy and household articles from palam leaves. These towns don't have urban services like sewerage, latrines, drainages etc. and infrastructural facilities like educational institutions, banks, electricity and medical institutions. Because of these things, these towns had a comparatively low urbanity index. Even though, the emergence of new small scale industries in some towns provides better employment opportunities to some peoples, these industries were not able to provide employment opportunities to all the workers. Small household industries were also not able to survive. So, these towns had experienced out-migration of people from these towns and hence the slow-growth rate.

THE OUTCOME OF THE CASE STUDIES:

A detailed analysis of the case studies of individual towns shows that the high rate of growth of population in the small towns is because of two main reasons. They are, 1. the physical expansion of big urban centres and 2. the establishment of new manufacturing and industrial organizations. It is because of the residential suburbanization process, many new houses
and housing colonies were established in the peripheral areas of big urban centres which happened to be small towns forming a part of urban agglomeration of big urban centres. It is because of heavy congestion in the central city areas, many people have started constructing their own house in the peripheral areas of big urban centres where housing sites are available at a comparatively cheaper rate than in the central city areas. The other factors like less congestion, good transportation network etc. also played a crucial rate.

Some manufacturing and industrial processes need more space, water etc. It is due to the enormously high cost land, non-availability of required amount of water in central city areas, many manufacturing and industrial establishments were started in the peripheral areas. In these areas, the land is available at a cheaper rate and water for its various processes is available in plenty. It is because of these reasons that these manufacturing and industrial establishments were started in the peripheral areas. The easy availability of electricity, transportation network, availability of work force in these areas further accelerates the growth of these areas which are nothing but the small towns. Locational factor played a crucial role in the growth of Mandapam town. The tourists who want to go
to the Rameswaram temple have to step at Mandapam because, previously there was no road connection to Rameswaram island. They have to go only by train to Rameswaram island from Mandapam. It acted as a transit point. To cater to the needs of these tourists, many commercial establishments came into existence grow in this town. This has resulted in the high rate of growth of population in this town.

In the case of towns which experienced low rate of growth of population they were traditionally agricultural towns with one or more traditional industries like yarn producing, mat weaving, hand-loom weaving, coir making, producing fancy and household articles from bamboo and palmyrah leaves etc. It is due to the failure of rain during monsoon seasons and lack of rivers to provide perennial water for agriculture, there was a decline in agricultural activities. Therefore a considerable extent of out-migration has been reported from these towns. Similarly, the traditional small-scale industries were not able to compete with the modern industrial activities. It is because of this also, a considerable out migration has been reported from these towns.

In four towns taken for analysis in this category, there was a considerable number of Nattukottai chettiar families.
Previously, they were money lenders and pawn brokers. They had wide contacts and they had their business in foreign countries like Burma, Malaysia, Ceylon etc. Immediately after the second world-war, they permanently returned to their native places. After returning, many persons moved to various parts of the state and even to other states, and started their own industrial and commercial activities. Some persons continued their on many lending and pawn brokerage activities. Previously when they went abroad the male members of the families used to be away, leaving their families in their native places. Now, because of the modern communication networks and easy and quick transportation facilities, these people take their families with them. At times of religious and socio-cultural functions at their native places, they used to come over to their places, and immediately after the functions they again used to return back to their work place. It is due to these reasons also, a considerable amount of out-migration has been reported in these towns.

Some of the traditionally agricultural towns don't have any urban infrastructural and basic service facilities. In the case of some other towns, the near absence of agricultural activities has drastically reduced the female employment. So, they have low urbanity index. The one-time prosperity and
considerable amount of monetary flow from the male migrants who send their savings regularly to the native place, some of the towns have sustained the infrastructures such as educational institutions, hospitals, banks and basic services like electricity, drinking water, drainage etc., which resulted in high urbanity.

Thus, the case studies reveal the influence of territorial change in tilting the real rate of growth of population (Annadenappati and Kulasekarapattinam). This explains the earlier stand of the researcher that in many small towns, the decline is a myth. Big urban centres' expansion, suburbanization — industrial and residential have contributed to high growth of small towns. In such cases invariably, urbanity indexes also relatively high.

Sudden emergence of industries leading to rapid urban growth has resulted in time lag between infrastructural development and population settlement.

Therefore, low urbanity and high urban growth is reported. Some small towns which have reaped the agricultural prosperities of 1960's have built infrastructural facilities. When they were not able to sustain agricultural prosperity in the subsequent decades they come under the category of high urbanity index and low population growth rate. A few service and agricultural towns which tried to attract diversified agricultural activities
with lift irrigation, subsequently failed to keep up the tempo because of water scarcity. They represent the case of low urbanity and high out-migration.