CHAPTER 7
NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS

The non-metallic mineral producing centres are developed in the western part of the district. The raw materials needed for these plants are fire clay, china clay, building stones, limestones and dolomites, etc. Most of these materials are to be found in nearby areas whereas limestones and dolomites are brought from Singhbhum district of Bihar.

The industrial units of this section are producing fire bricks, refractories, lining bricks, furnace products, glassware, plate glass, glass wool, optical glass, cement, lime, hume pipes, graphite products and other different non-metallic goods of this class. This industry sometimes supplies refractory materials to the large scale metal-based industries of Asansol-Durgapur industrial complex.

Major Concentration

Non-metallic mineral products account for about 8% of the district's total mineral-based industries at present. These are concentrated in Salanpur, Kulti, Asansol, Barbani, Raniganj, Ondal, Jamuria, Faridpur and Durgapur police stations. The temporal variation in the concentration of industrial units and their manpower are studied here in detail.

Raniganj was superior in factory and labour concentration during 1960 as the average employment capacity of factories in this police station was the maximum in the district. The industrial units, at that time, could involve 50% of the district's total number of workers in this class. Such a percentage share in 1960 showed a gradual declining trend in the following

* 571 persons per factory

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Table 4.1

Percentage share of industrial units and their manpower of non-metallic mineral products

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<td>Units</td>
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<td>17.28</td>
<td>13.57</td>
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years (Table 4.1) and now the average employment capacity is reduced from 571 in 1960 to 489 persons per factory (1982).

Regarding employment, the position of Raniganj was first up to 1970. At present, Raniganj ranks second as the police station of Durgapur overtook the position of Raniganj in 1975. The highest percentage of industrial units was recorded in these two police stations during 1960 and 1965. This leading position of Durgapur continues till now showing 35% of the district's total number of industrial units of non-metallic mineral products, whereas the position of Raniganj is now on the wane.
Kulti ranks second in the percentage share of factory units and third in labour concentration. This position in terms of factory units also remained in 1980. Thus, the position of Kulti and Raniganj was the same at that time. In 1975 this police station, ranked third, in labour concentration. The percentage share of manpower engaged in these industrial units of Kulti police station was increased from 1% in 1960 to 14% in 1965 as a unit (with 543 persons) was established then. That is a thirteen times increase of working force in this particular police station within a span of only five years.

Salanpur and Asansol police stations were the second leading spatial units in terms of concentration of factories during 1960. Salanpur exhibited a declining trend in labour concentration except certain accelerated increase from 1975 onward. The percentage of labour concentration in Salanpur remains the same compared to the base year; still the average employment capacity is increased from 151 persons to 191 persons per factory. The lowest capacity (100 persons per factory) was recorded in 1970 when the percentage share of the factory was meagre. But this year was followed by the highest capacity (265 persons per factory) in 1975.

Asansol police station holds the third leading position in the percentage share of labour concentration in the year 1960, 1970 and in 1980 (Table 4.1). The average employment capacity in 1965 which was maximum (447 persons per factory) in this area over twenty-two years of study, helped the area to stand as a second leading police station surpassing even Durgapur police station.

At present, the position of Barbani police station in the percentage share of industrial units is the same as of Raniganj (it stands third). But the status of this area is not like that of Raniganj if we consider the employment
capacity. The curve for average employment capacity has been gradually going down from 310 persons per factory in 1960 to 63 persons per factory in 1982.

The remaining police stations are Faridpur, Jamuria and Ondal and existed from 1960. These are capable of absorbing only a small percentage of labour.

Among these police stations Durgapur and Raniganj are of prime importance both in terms of the number of industrial units and labour strength over the twenty-two years of study. The analysis ( Table 4.1 ) clearly shows that, Salanpur, Kulti, and Asansol police stations were of medium importance and the remaining three were of low significance.

Growth Rate

The industrial picture of Durgapur police station, which ranks first exhibits - gradual growth both in terms of industrial units as well as in labour strength from 1960 onward. The growth rate was maximum during 1965-70. This rate was 75% in the field of industrial units and 58% in labour strength. The growth rate in industrial units was 33% in 1960-65 and also in 1980-82. Thus an overall growth pattern helped this area to surpass Raniganj which held leading position in the past.

Raniganj showed 33% and 25% growth in industrial units during 1960-65 and again in 1965-70. In the following years it displayed either stagnation or decay in the number of factory units. In the year 1970-75 an abrupt fall both in the number of factories and manpower was noticed. From that period the area lost its leading position. The preceding years were marked by stagnation in the number of industrial units. During 1975-80 the highest growth of the area was recorded in labour strength though at that time stagnation
in industrial unit was continuing. The labour strength of the following years shows only a small growth.

The industrial landscape of Kulti police station was marked by significant development in labour strength during 1960-65. In this period 100% growth in industrial units was the cause for 1161% growth in manpower. It indicated nearly a twelve times increase of labour strength during this period. Such a growth has not been found in any other area or in any other class of industry. But there was 50% fall in the growth rate of industrial units in 1965-70. During 1970-75 the growth for industrial unit was 100% with 17.70% growth in labour. The area showed 14.51% fall in labour strength in 1975-80 though having the same amount of growth in industrial units as in the previous year. At present, 50% growth of manpower is noticeable due to 25% growth in industrial units. Thus, the industrial landscape of this area over twenty two years of study exhibits 1975% growth of manpower from the base year, while there is 400% growth in industrial units.

The industrial pattern of Asansol police station showed no progress earlier than 1980. During 1960-65 above 90% growth of manpower was recorded with no growth in industrial unit. Such a stagnation showed a declining curve in the growth rate of manpower during 1965-70 and 1980-82. The decline is more prominent in the latter period of study. The period of 1970-75 suffered a major slowdown. Fifty percent fall in the number of factories exhibited 18% fall in manpower at that time.

Salanpur police station is favoured by a continuous growth. There was, however, certain fall in manpower during 1960-65 and 1975-80. High growth

* 1.87%
rate (430%) of manpower was indicated by the 100% growth of factories in 1970-75. Such a high growth rate ultimately compensated the decline of 1965-70. At present the industrial units are not growing. But the manpower strength has grown by 10.64%.

The industrial landscape of Barbani was marked by stagnation of industrial units in the first decade which also showed a negative curve in the growth rate of manpower. The picture somewhat improved during 1970-75 when 93.70% growth in the number of workers was indicated by 100% growth in factories.

The industrial units of Jamuria, Ondal and Faridpur are not statistically significant.

Size of the Units

According to the 'Size Index' the number of small industries is greater and the number of big size (size V/VI) is very small.

Durgapur had one factory each in size classes of II, III and IV in 1960. In 1965 a new factory in the size class of IV was established. District's largest industrial unit (size Class VI) is located in Raniganj police station. In Kulti, except one unit producing lining bricks and furnace product belonging to size Class V, all other newly established units belong to the small size category. These factories came into existence between 1980 and 1982. The 'Hindusthan Pilkington Glass Works' of Asansol police station belonged to Class IV in 1960. In 1965 the employment capacity of the factory was doubled. Employment here increased further in 1980. Thus the factory shifted its size class from IV to VI. Salanpur witnessed a number of its factories closing down. But the opening of a new fire brick works in 1975 somewhat stabilized the situation.
This factory belongs to size IV. In Barbani police station the existing units showed certain fluctuations in the employment sizes in 1965 and in 1975. Here all belong to small industries category.

Summary of Findings

A temporal and spatial analysis of this industrial situation show some can be summarised as follows:

1. At present, only about 8% of the district's total number of registered units is under this class, employing nearly 6% of district's total registered workers. It is mainly concentrated in the police stations of the western part of the district. Most of the units have medium size which absorb 94% of districts' total workers of this group. The number of small-size units is very few.

2. Durgapur police station stands ahead of all other police stations in the number of industrial units and workers employed. Its position is marked by a continuous growth in the industrial field, the pattern of which is never distorted by any closure of factories. Raniganj was the leading industrial police station in the earlier part of the study. But a declining curve in the growth rate deprived the area of its leading position.

3. This industry witnessed a periodical variation. At present, the number of this industrial workers is doubled from the base year. This industry suffered from stagnation during 1970-75. Maximum growth was noticed during 1960-65 and 1975-80 as many new units came up at that time. Some small units were established during the latter part of the study.