CHAPTER – VIII

CONCLUSION

In the eighteenth century, enormous development took place in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of production both in rural and urban scenes owing to the expansion of European overseas trade. The ever growing markets of peasants' production encouraged the peasantry to take up the cultivation of profitable commercial crops such as cotton, indigo, tobacco, betel leaves, sugarcane etc. The French who earlier realised the importance of cotton textiles, introduced new cotton seeds brought from distant Bourbon and Mauritius Islands. The cultivation of these commercial crops brought vast lands under cultivation and it indicated the growth of money markets in this region. Besides, it enhanced the revenue of the Company.

The century witnessed the migration of merchants, weavers and a wide range of skilled rural artisans like cloth printers and painters, blacksmiths, carpenters, potters and shoemakers from the countryside and temple complex towards the periphery of port-town of Pondicherry and its vicinity. Many weaving colonies sprang up in the environs of Pondicherry in connection with production of textiles. The emergence of new weaving centres at
Pudupet (Kanuvapet), Lawspet and Thilasupet, to name a few, contributed to a great extent to the growth of villages in the suburbs of Pondicherry. These suburban villages not only developed well in supplying innumerable quantities of cotton textiles and other artisanal products to the French company at Pondicherry, but also contributed to the growth of Pondicherry town as an urban centre. It is in this way that the colonies and factories established by the French on the Coromandel coast took a new shape in the outgrowth of urban centres along with market towns in the interior place. The growth of new settlements of merchants, weavers and artisans in the suburbs of Pondicherry under the French underlined the role of trade in the development of market system. The weavers and skilled artisans who opted for permanent settlement in Pondicherry and its environs took their specialization in certain types of works which made the town famous.

The weavers and artisans specialists in cotton cleaning, spinning, weaving, oil pressing, sugar manufacturing, basket making etc., which were carried out by the peasant households as a part time occupation, had turned out to be full time producers. A large number of villages in the vicinity of Pondicherry took great advantage of weaving of various kinds of textiles, and production was boosted up
in connection with export markets. With the growth of trade economy, the status and position of the weavers and artisans improved in society to some extent. Their art and crafts extensively spread in this region and it further provided an opportunity to new occupational groups to work in this field. The separate occupation of cotton cleaning, spinning, cloth weaving, silk weaving, printing and painting of textiles, oil pressing, sugar manufacturing, dyemaking, dyeing of cloths, basket making etc, mainly contributed to surplus production. These products found their way to the local markets of Pondicherry as the focus of local trade was shifted from the interior markets to French settlements on the Coromandel coast. The commercialization of agricultural production and the commodity production by artisans, and also the nature of geographical location played in fact an important role in bringing about the development of market economy in the region of Pondicherry.

Several markets such as daily market, seasonal market, weekly market and periodical fairs received momentum in the town of Pondicherry and its vicinity. These markets catered to the needs of the people in the town and its surrounding villages. New trade routes were developed to bring the commodity to Pondicherry by land, linking the port-town of Pondicherry with important commercial-cum-
manufacturing centres in the hinterland. On the land routes, innumerable chavadis or chattirams were erected by the wealthy merchants for passing the nights and taking rest for the sake of travellers. These facilities enabled transportation of commercial goods easy to assemble at the port-town of Pondicherry from various hinterland trading-cum-manufacturing centres. Several port-towns of India were well linked with Pondicherry on the coastline. Commercial goods were frequently transported from one port to another and coastal trade with other ports developed. The port of Pondicherry was not only controlled but also regulated by the French.

The commercial goods collected from interior parts were brought to Pondicherry and from there they found their way to overseas markets. Consequently regional trade from Pondicherry to Pegu, Siam, Mergui, Tenasserin, Kedah, Achin, Malacca, Batavia, Philippines, Cochinchna, China and Japan in the East and to the ports in Red sea and in the Persian Gulf in the West including the Indian Ocean islands was developed by the French. Pondicherry became the distribution centre for goods coming from Europe and thence going to distant markets. Various goods were imported into Pondicherry from overseas markets. The markets for European goods were spread well into the interior places of India.
The significant impact on the growth of overseas trade was that the Coromandel merchants who were traditional carriers of the textiles from Coromandel coast to Southeast Asian countries began to lose their independent participation in the trade with those countries. They had to depend on the Company's ships for their commercial goods to be shipped to overseas markets depending on the freight charges. The company's ships and the passes issued by the French Governor offered safe freight and conduct on the high seas for the goods of the local merchants. The commercial links of the French Company with the local merchants enabled the French to enter into the trade of Pondicherry with Southeast Asian countries and generate funds for their European trade. The whole Coromandel coast became the market area for the European competitors to procure textiles and to sell their home products. The Company's export trade was balanced by the import of bullions such as gold and silver, from Europe and other Asian countries. The important impact of this trade was that a number of Brahmins got the opportunity to work as interpreters, accountants and ambassadors of the Company and also engaged themselves in the trading ventures.

During the period under review, merchant capital played an important role. Besides the professional bankers like sowcars and Gujaratis, the Tamil merchants, who earned
huge wealth through trade, established banking institutions in various parts of this region and invested a part of their capital in the banking sector and exchanged money through bills of exchange. They earned great profit in the banking sector. The small scale commodity producers, whose investment was limited were not able to cater to the growing needs of the French Company; these became in due course wage earners of capitalists. The relationship of the wealthy merchants with the French Company on the one hand and the local political authorities on the other made them appear as tax farmers to generate money for their private trade. Another important impact of this trade was that the local rulers also got involved in these trading activities. Some wealthy merchants established certain number of looms and employed weavers and artisans to produce textiles and controlled the secondary sector of production.

According to M.N. Pearson, capitalism developed in the eighteenth century. It was visible that the merchants who earned considerable wealth began to advance money to the weavers and artisans. In the system of advancing money to the weavers and artisans, master weavers and master craftsmen emerged from both merchant and artisan class. These master weavers and master-craftsmen acted as middlemen or brokers between actual producers and the Company and the
merchants; and they began to supervise production of crafts. The money advanced by the merchants to the weavers and artisans led to the formation of capitalist domestic industry on the one hand, and subjugated certain sections of artisans on the other. Thus the goods produced by the artisans belonged to the merchants, and the artisans became wage workers of the capitalists. In this case, the merchants became direct organisers of production and owners of the crafts and looms. In fine, the dadani system and widespread use of the advanced money in the non-agricultural sector brought the weavers and artisans under the control of the capitalists and they were subjugated by the merchant capital in this region. The machine made fabrics coming from Europe subjugated the Indian cottage industries in the Coromandel region.
GLOSSARY

Adhikasu - a duty of one 'Kasu' per day collected from shops and stalls in the Pondicherry town as well as in its neighbouring villages. This duty was withdrawn on 1st January 1860.

Allukasu - a duty of one 'Kasu' was imposed on every shop and stall and collected from every individual selling various kinds of fish such as dry fish, fresh fish and salt fish in the bazaar.

Amaldar - local chieftain.

Ares - a land measures of 100 Sq. metres.

Arrack de Paraiah - liquor distilled from Jaggary or Palm sugar using bark chips of accacia leucocephalea.

Avanam - a measurement in the sale of arecanut.

Balija - caste name prevalent among telugu community such as Gazulu Balija, Pericavar Balija.

Bar - a weight of 240 Kgs in use in Pondicherry.

Basin - dimities or a thick cotton cloth with designs worked in it and used for beddings and screens.

Belles chites - beautiful chintz.

Bétille doréas - a kind of famous muslin.

Bétille organdi - beautiful muslin cloth.

Candy - a weight of 500 lbs.

Canjee - liquid rice food.

Casses - A kind of textiles.

Chattiram or Chavadi - this word from which the other word "choultry" had come is used to mean a place of charity built up on the highways where travellers find a shelter and often are given some food.
Chetty - a South Indian merchant caste.

Chintz - glazed or unglazed printed cotton or silk fabric.

Chulias - name given in South India to trading muslims.

Conjams - number of threads.

Cotwal - market supervisor in Pondicherry; Chief of Police in other secondary establishments.

Dubashy - literally person speaking two languages, translator, interpreter working in the European Trading Companies.

Ecus - french coins.

Eri - lake.

Fanam - silver coin in South India valued at 24 Kasu or one eighth of a rupee.

Firman - a written order issued by a ruler.

Garas - a kind of textile.

Garse - a standard of weight prevalent in north coromandel region, one garse equalled to 600 markals. This is used to assess the loadings during shipments.

Guinea or guinée - cotton cloth for export to West Africa.

Guingham - striped or checked cloth.

Hamans - a kind of textile.

Haweldar - military officer with administrative control over towns and subdivisions.

Kaikolar - Tamil weaving caste.

Kallu - juice extracted from spathes of coconut trees.

Kailes - Kambayam cloth.

Kalam - a Tamil measure of paddy and rice with regional variations.
Kasu - a copper coin of small denomination current in Tamil country.

Kasukarachetty - a Tamil merchant caste.

Kaverichettis - a Tamil merchant caste.

Kayalar - a subdivision of Tamil muslims of coromandel coast.

Kiledar - local chieftain.

Kinnithér - temple car in South India.

Kling - a country boat often used on coromandel coast dressed with coin.

Komatty - a Telugu merchant caste.

Korai - a variety of grass.

Labbi - a subdivision of Tamil muslim of coromandel and are traders and betel vine growers.

Lambadi - a well known tribe of carriers of foodgrains.

Lampasse - a kind of textile.

Lègre - a kind of bottle wrapped round the body as loincloth or waistcloth.

Mahanattar - head of every nattar of each caste.

Malmolie: - A kind of muslim produced in Bengal areas.

Maniam - gift or free land.

Marakal - A measurement for grains used in Tamil country.

Marakkayar - A subdivision of Tamil muslims of coromandel.

Mouchoir - handkerchief, scarf.

Moutchy - A caste people engaged in painting in Pondicherry.

Mudaliyar - A title of honour and authority: A Tamil caste of land owners.
Nayanar - the native chief of police in Pondicherry.

Pachakkadai - a kind of muslin.

Pagoda - a coin both gold and silver once current in South India; gold pagoda was called varaha or hun; and also temple.

Pandaram - a hindu devotee living on alms.

Pandjicottis - cotton cleaners.

Parah - a measure used in lime transaction equivalent to 70 measures or 70 litres to the brim.

Patathikarai - a kind of cloth.

Pattunoolkarans - literally silk thread producers.

Percale - high degree of light and fine white plain cotton cloth.

Perse - chintz.

Piastre - a foreign coin.

Podikasu - Tax given in kinds by merchants of different cereals for the custody of their grains. This has been withdrawn in 1858.

Rawther - a subdivision of Tamil muslim of coromandel.

Sailesse - kombayam cloth.

Salempore - plain white and dyed cotton cloth a speciality of coromandel.

Saliar or Sale - South Indian weaving caste subdivided into castes such as Padna sale, Pattu sale, Karna sale.

Sana - a kind of cotton textile.

Sarassa - multicoloured patterned cloth used as waistcloth and curtain cloth.

Socroton - a kind of textile.
Sowcar - bankers.
Stinkerque - a kind of textile.
Sungam - passage tax; the place where it is paid.
Taffeta - a kind of cloth.
Takkavi - a loan given to peasants before harvest.
Tarnatane - a kind of textile.
Terrindam - a variety of muslin cloth for the body.
Thopu - a garden of fruit yielding or other types of trees.
Touttu - coin in South India.
Vallam - a measurement equivalent to 10 litres to the brim.
Vazir - a principal minister, generally of finance.
Waram - cultivator's share on the harvest.