INTRODUCTION

Objectives of Study

Organisation of Study
The agrarian question remains at the centre of social, economic and political discourse in developing countries like India where a transition from agrarian to an industrial society is still not complete. Of all, the role of the state has been most vital in effecting rural transformation during the post-Independence period in the form of land reforms, green revolution, poverty alleviation programmes etc. These programmes have made differential impact upon areas and people. The states of Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal have emerged as islands of development.

Among all states Haryana offers an interesting example of an area which in about three decades since its formation has emerged as one of the most developed states of the Indian Union (Fig.1). In terms of population and area it comprises 2.96 percent and 1.48 percent of India’s total respectively but in per capita income it stands next only to Goa and Punjab. Nearly 58.85 percent of its work force is engaged in the primary sector which contributes two-fifths of the states’ income. Thus agriculture is the mainstay of its economy. No less than about 86 percent of its total area is under plough. The all-India figure is 46.31 percent. About 60 percent of the net area sown is irrigated in comparison to about 30 percent in India (Economic Intelligence Service, 1994). The comparatively high per capita income in the state
is significantly related to its progressive agriculture.

Green Revolution in 1966 coincided with the formation of the state and served as a water-divide as far as agricultural policy and planning is concerned, which was in consonance with that adopted for the country.

The first phase can be called as the structuralist-institutionalist phase, the dominant goal of which was to create a modern, progressive and equalitarian rural society, a grand Nehruvian blend of Gandhian and Marxian visions. The policy instruments devised thus stressed land reforms, community development programme, co-operative farming and so on. Some vital inputs had gone into the agricultural development of the state during this phase. Introduction of Bhakra multipurpose project for irrigation and power led to canal irrigation in the northern districts. Extensive agricultural land was reclaimed. A sizeable part of the newly developed land was used for rehabilitating displaced persons from Pakistan. Agriculturists from the crowded parts of the present Punjab also started settling here in response to the availability of cheap agricultural land. The state also undertook consolidation of landholdings and the conferring of land rights on tenants of long standing, which was one of the factors which contributed to a decline in tenancy and to the rise in the relative
importance of self cultivation by owners to more than 2/3rds of the area by 1957 which grew to about 80 percent fifteen years later; the process accelerated in response to the possibilities opened up by the introduction of new high yielding variety seeds (Bhalla, 1995, pp.2619-20). Consolidation of land holdings also paved way for introduction of tubewell irrigation.

In the second phase, the focus on technology emerged primarily out of the disillusionment with the structuralist institutionalist approach. The instrumental variables were high yielding variety seeds, pesticides, chemical fertilizers, multiple cropping and irrigated farming.

The advent of the Borloug seed-fertilizer based technology heralded a new era in agricultural transformation in mid-sixties in the state of Haryana. This event provided a stimulus to the extension of irrigation which was its single most important pre-requisites. Not only this, a massive effort was made to develop and transform the socio-economic infrastructure of rural electrification, construction of link roads, establishment of regulated agricultural marketing sites, banking and credit facilities, education, health etc.

The decade following the green revolution saw Haryana achieve the highest economic growth rates in the country, not only net
State Domestic Product, but also in each of the three sectors — primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors separately; an event which shifted Haryana from fifth place among Indian states to the top position with respect to income per male worker. The same is also corroborated by Bhalla (1981, p.1023).

Notwithstanding regional variations the introduction of high yield raising new seed, fertilizer technology in agriculture during the mid-sixties also led to a marked increase in the growth rate of agricultural output and has been instrumental in the transformation of traditional household agriculture into modern commercial agriculture. The levels and growth of land productivity or of output came to be positively associated with use of modern inputs such as irrigation, pumpsets, tractors, fertilizers etc. The profitability of new technology led the farmers to resume land for self-cultivation from share-croppers, lowered the labour-absorption and reduced incomes for erstwhile tenants. The modern agro-technology not only brought about changes in the cropping pattern but also in the regional patterns of labour productivity and changed agrarian relations. Above all, the question of sustainability of agriculture came to be widely discussed.
Objectives of Study

The present study would seek to examine the agrarian change experienced in the state of Haryana during the post-green revolution in detail, whether the dynamic agricultural development since 1960’s was sustainable and how far the agrarian social structure experienced change in the socio-economic and political domains. The following objectives have been chosen:

(i) Historical context of Haryana’s agricultural development in post-green revolution period encompassing the socio-economic, geographical, political dimensions;

(ii) Agricultural development and its sustainability, the rate of various inputs and land management systems;

(iii) Trickle down effects of the green revolution and its sustainability during the post-green revolution period: socio-economic conditions of landed and the landless peasantry;

(iv) Employment pattern, wage rates, working conditions, mechanization and irrigation and their changing patterns;

(v) Agrarian prosperity and indebtedness among various agrarian classes;

(vi) Role of Government policies for the sustainability of agriculture.
Organisation of study

The study covers the 1966-99 period. It is organised into three components: conceptualisation, analysis and synthesis. The conceptual part builds a theoretical framework including review of literature on the theme. This is followed by a statement of methodology in the light of stated objectives. A brief account of the physical and cultural setting of Haryana, a gestalt of sampled villages and socio-economic background of respondents is given so as to serve as the necessary backdrop.

This is followed by an analysis of agrarian structure and the changing pattern of agriculture followed by a detailed discussion on landed peasantry and landless labour from sampled region.

The synthesis provides an aggregate picture. It is presented in the form of summary of conclusions. Some research questions which emanate from the discussion in the study are also enunciated.