CHAPTER-III

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CANNABIS AND OPIUM DRUG TRADE AND TRAFFICKING

3.1 BRITISH EXCISE POLICY AND TRADE OF OPIUM IN SIMLA HILL STATES

The excise policy with regard to the States was one of non-interference. The States made their own rules as to opium cultivation, demanding in most cases a small fee from both grower and purchaser. Otherwise the growth of poppy in the hills was unchecked, till the opium was actually brought into British territory. The States kept no papers beyond a list of cultivators and traders, and from this list it was impossible to draw any deductions, as it was simply of names, and takes no account of area sown or opium purchased. Britishers had no power of supervision, check or search in the State, nor was it any offence for a man to export opium from one State to another, provided it was not brought through British territory.

3.1.1 Import and export of Opium in Simla Hill States

In earlier days raw opium was produced in Jubbal State and used to be exported outside the state through licence holders and one such licence holder in Jubbal state was Mehta Sunder. The rate of one seer of raw opium was 168/- per seer. He used to supply/export raw opium produced in Jubbal State to other states. In one transaction, Wazir Jubbal State had offered to export one Maund and ten seers of raw opium at Rs.168/- per seer out of his stock in Bashahr State to Bilaspur state. Therefore, export and import of opium was in existence in Punjab and Shimla Hill States.

The Commissioner of Narcotics of the U.S. Government had requested Govt. of India for supply of authentic samples of the opium produced in various part of India as

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1 "Opium Smuggling in the Punjab," Lahore(1931), Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing Punjab,1931,p.17
2 Wazir, Jubbal State Memo No.P.13-6/31-3283 dated 2nd January, 1947 to Foreign Secretary, Bilaspur State, Punjab Hill StatesFile,46, Excise-Drugs-Supply-Opium-1946,Sr.No.357 Bundle No.11,HP State Archive, Shimla,p.3
3 ibid
4 Wazir, Jubbal State Memo No.P.13-6/31-3283 dated 6th January,1947 to Foreign Secretary, Bilaspur State, Punjab Hill StatesFile,46, Excise-Drugs-Supply-Opium-1946,Sr.No.357 Bundle No.11,HP State Archive, Shimla
5 ibid
per copy of memorandum No. F.16 (1)-E.O./47 dated the 26th April, 1947, from the Central Government, Finance Department (Revenue Division), to the Collector of Central Excise, Allahabad. Thus in compliance, the Residents concerned were requested to send the samples of the opium produced in Baroda, Mewar, Kotah and any one of the Punjab States to the Commissioner of Narcotics, Treasury Department, Bureau of Narcotics, Washington-25. Even representative samples from any of the Simla Hill States measuring of one pound were asked to send it direct to the Controller of Central Excise, Allahabad.

In Nepal, Bashahr, and Rampur, and at Doda Kashtwar in the Jammu territory, opium was produced and exported to Yarkand, Khotan, Aksu, and various Chinese provinces.  

3.1.2 Money lending for growing poppy in Shimla Hill States

Certain money-lenders of the Outer Saraj were lending money on favourable terms to Zamindars on the Simla bank of the Sutlej, on condition that the debtors grow opium and sell it to their creditors in Kulu. The practice appeared extensive, and still further vitiated the figures for Kotgarh Kamharsain and Rampur.

3.1.3 Trade passing through Rampur from Kashmir via Spiti to Punjab

A report was sent by Assistant Commissioner, Kullu to the Deputy Commissioner Kangra, at Dharamshala vide his letter No.257 of 25th November, 1895 after making enquiries by the Naib T tahsildar as to the trade passing through that city. The Naib T tahsildar/Enquiry Officer reported that about 100 maunds of charas passed through Rampur. The charas did not come via Spiti but from a place called Pukar in Kashmir territory. This charas came from Ladakh and it was presumed by him though the Naib T tahsildar has not mentioned the matter in his report, that the carriers had passes from the Joint Commissioner at Leh. Thakur of Lahul was of the opinion that about Rs.800/- worth of charas is imported into Rampur via Spiti. It was being carried over the Parang Lal Pass from Chumurti to Kibar and there to Dhankar until it reached the Hindustan Tibet Road near Poh.

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6 Central Government, Finance Department (Revenue Division), Copy of memorandum No.F.16 (1)-E.O/47, dated the 26th April 1947 to Collector of Central Excise, Allahabad, Punjab Hill States File/46, Excise-Drugs-Supply-Opium-1946, Sr.No.357, Bundle No.11, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.22


8 G.M King, Esquire, Assistant Commissioner, Kullu, letter No.257 of 25th November 1895 to Deputy Commissioner Kangra District , Dharamshala
He further pointed out that all the charas imported into the Punjab on this side came from Yarkand to the Punjab which passed through Leh. The carriers must hold a pass from the Joint Commissioner at Leh.

In addition to Charas, the Naib Tahsildar also told that the following articles come to Rampur via Spiti

1. Borax about 4000 maunds
2. Salt about 1000 maunds
3. Pashm about 500 maunds
4. Wool about 1500 maunds
5. Ponies about 100
6. Chauries (Yak Tails) about 200

He further advised that it would be worth while to try a Muharir in Spiti to register the trade.

### 3.1.4 British India's Magistrates issued hashish certificates

On reaching British territory all charas was weighed before the nearest magistrate, by whom it was sealed, a certificate of weight signed by the Deputy Commissioner was given to the owner. The trader, before leaving the district, obtains a permit allowing him to take the drug to a special market. The zamindars of Chinese Turkestan were the vendors of the drug, the importers being Yarkhandis or Ladakhis, who dispose of it at Hoshiapur and Amritsar principally, returning with piece-goods. The drug in this way reached the chief cities of Punjab during September and October. Thence it was distributed over the Central and United Provinces as far as Bombay and Calcutta, and was used everywhere for smoking. Charas, though a drug, played the part of money to a great extent in the trade that was carried on at Ladakh, the price of the drug depending on the state of the market, and any fluctuations causing a corresponding increase or decrease in the value of the goods for which it was bartered. The exchange price of charas thus gave rise to much gambling. A pony-load (two pais or three maunds) sold for Rs. 40 or Rs. 50, the cost of transport to Hoshiapur (the chief Punjab depot) was Rs. 100, and there it fetched from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100 per maund. Retail dealers sold small quantities at a price that worked out at Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per maund. The Kashgar

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growers, encouraged by the high prices, sowed a large crop and reaped a bumper harvest, only to find the market already overstocked and prices on the Leh Exchange fallen from Rs. 60 to Rs. 30 per maund. The following were the imports of charas from Ladakh and Kashmir between 1904 and 1907:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1904-5</th>
<th>1905-6</th>
<th>1906-7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cwt.*</td>
<td>2818</td>
<td>2446</td>
<td>2883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Rs</td>
<td>12,13,860</td>
<td>18,39,960</td>
<td>22,90,560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[* Cwt = Hundredweight: 1 cwt = 112 lbs, approx = 50 kgs]

3.2 TRADE IN KULLU SUB DIVISION

The Kooloo Zemindar could not be termed a trader at all; he must be regarded more in the light of a farmer, who disposed by retail and wholesale of the produce of his lands. His rice he used to sell to the Lahoulees, and much of his wheat went in the direction, but purchasers for this last commodity were also found in the plains. His opium crop was taken off his hands entirely by traders from the Punjab and the adjoining hill states, and his tobacco, grown principally in the Upper valley, he retained for home consumption chiefly, but no inconsiderable portion of this found its way to Lahoul and Spiti, Seoraj, and the states near Simla.

The Spiti cloth was particularly good and was of several descriptions. Egerton mentions that a paper was manufactured in Spiti from a kind of grass that grows wild in the Peen valley, and by Manee village, below Dhunkur; and Captain Hay, in his report on Spiti, alludes to the fact that 132 shoogoes of paper (equal to 600 Hindoostani takhtas) were paid in 1839 as part of the Spiti tribute to the ruler of Ladakh.

In Kooloo very fine oil is made from the poppy seed, as also from the bruised kernels of apricots and peaches, from mustard, and from various other grain bearing weeds. Each Zemindar prepares a sufficient supply for his household wants but not

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10 Capt. A.F.P. Harcourt, "The Himalayan Districts of Kooloo, Lahoul and Spiti", W. H. Allen & Co, 13 Waterloo Place, 1871, p.246
11 ibid., p.252
12 ibid., p.255
13 ibid.
enough for sale and it, therefore, was not easy for the Europeans to obtain oil in any large quantities.\footnote{ibid.,pp.255-256}

The purchasers of the Kooloo opium were for the most part shopkeepers from Sooltanpore or Mundee, traders from Hooshinpore and Jullundur also dealing largely in the drug, which fetched from Rs.6 to Rs.15 per pucka seer.\footnote{ibid.,p.173}

As per Q.Q. Henriques, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Kangra letter No.3352 dated 23.9.1915 to the Director of Land Records, Punjab, Lahore, para 2 stated that the existing trade which found its way to Kulu came either from Yarkand or Western Tibet. The former consisted chiefly of charas; the latter of wool. The Yarkand trade had diminished very considerably since the Kashmir route had been opened, and no Yarkandis now came to Kulu. They take their ponies by the easier Kashmir route; and there seemed little likelihood or our being able sufficiently to improve the Kulu route to win back the trade. Beyond the Baralacha the physical condition were very trying.\footnote{ibid.,pp.255-256,\footnote{ibid.},\footnote{ibid., p.173}} The Kumhars, who go up to Yarkand for charas, would readily buy it at \footnote{ibid., pp.255-256}-6/- a ‘batti’ (-\footnote{ibid., para 4 ,page,218}2 seers)

The trade with Western Tibet on the other hand was, likely to expand. There was already a large import of wool which was all sold in the Kulu Valley. At one time the Cawnpore Mills were large buyers, but they were no longer willing to give good prices for the mixed vales that were brought down. Local buyers took readily all the wool that could be brought.\footnote{ibid., p.173}

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\subsection*{3.2.1 Trade Routes Passing Through Kullu}

As per AC to Kullu letter No.114 dated 25.9.1897 to DC Kangra, there were only two trade routes to Kullu. The first was the main one from Luri Bridge on the Satluj

\footnote{Q.Q. Henriques, Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, Dharamshala, letter No.3352 dated 23.9.1915,“Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901,”Kangra DC Records, File Head 28,File No.1(1), B.No.54 Sr.No.904,HP State Archive,para2,p.218}

\footnote{ibid.}

\footnote{ibid.,pp.255-256}

\footnote{ibid.,para 4 ,page,218}

\footnote{ibid.}

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through Sultanpur to the Lingti Plain.\textsuperscript{20} The other was the road from Wangtu Bridge in Bashahr over the Bhabeh pass to the Parang La Pass between Spiti and Tibet.\textsuperscript{21} Kulu was also known for Silk route passing through Kullu.

3.2.2 Charas Warehouse at Kullu

The charas warehouse at Kulu was only a transit warehouse as no sales took place there and the entire stock in Kulu, which was mostly owned by the Hoshiarpur traders, was removed for disposal to this warehouse\textsuperscript{22}. Rule No.15 of F.C No.50 dated 19\textsuperscript{th} March, 1915 laid down that Charas may remain stored in bond in the warehouses in the Punjab for a period of two years after which it must be removed from the warehouse and violation of it attracted their prosecution under section 65 of the Excise Act. Licensees had found to avoid compliance with this rule. They generally kept old charas in a number of warehouses. For sometime the charas remained in Kullu. It was then brought to Hoshiarpur and on some pretext or other it was transferred to Kullu so that charas may not remain in the same warehouse for a period of over two years\textsuperscript{23}. On 17\textsuperscript{th} February, 1928 Sh. Ram Ghulam entered into an agreement (translation given as below) with Sh. Dhanpat Rai and Chamba Mal Mokhi Ram for the purchase of 200 bundles of charas of 1926-27 (Lying in the Kulu warehouse during 1926-27) at the rate of 65/- per bundle. This charas was about two years old and was exported to the United Provinces on 10\textsuperscript{th}, 11th and 12th July, 1928\textsuperscript{24}.

3.2.3 Charas trade agreement

"To Lala Dhanpat Rai and Chamba Mal Mohi Ram Ji, greetings.

Your letter dated 16.3.1928 to hand. Particulars read. You write that 200 bundles of Charas were deposited in 1926-27 in the Kulu Godown in the name of our committee. Khushi Ram Mokhi Ram and Chamba Mal Harkishan Dass and Dhanpt Rai Mohan lal, that you will sell each bundle weighing 50 seers at Rs.65/-and charge commission..."

\textsuperscript{20} A.C. Kullu to D.C Kangra, letter No.114 dated 25.9.1897, “Trade with Tibet and Ladakh Distinction Between and Trade Route’s in Kullu,1890”, Kangra DC Records, Batch No.54,Sr.No.908,HP State Archive,Shimla,p.89
\textsuperscript{21} ibid
\textsuperscript{22} A.C Macnabb, Esquire, I.C.S, Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner Punjab, Commissioner, Jullundur Division, Lahore Division, and Rawalpindi Division, Deputy Commissioners, Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Amritsar and Rawalpindi, letter No.1304-E&S dated Lahore, dated 25\textsuperscript{th} February, 1930, “ an Inspection note dated 14\textsuperscript{th} February, 1930 by Lala Narsingh Dass, Excise Assistant”, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{23} ibid., pp. 8-9.
\textsuperscript{24} ibid., p. 6.
(arhat) at the rate of Rs.2/13/-percent; that from 1.4.1928 rent of the Godown will be borne by us (vendees); that interest will be charged at the rate of eight annas percent per mensem; and that you will meet the expenses of transfer from Kulu Godown to Hoshiarpur Warehouse. We are prepared to purchase your 200 bundles of Charas on these conditions. Charas should be of good quality. This letter is written as a memorandum and to witness that the bargain has been struck. The party committing breach of contract will be liable to Rs.100/- as damages. Dated 17.3.1928. Sd/- Ram Ghulam.

The following is written on the reverse of it. Price of 175 bundles of charas with interest and rent paid to Lala Dhanpat Rai Mohan Lal commission agents (arhtia) today the 14th August, 1928. Sd/- Ram Ghulam. Received 175 bundles of charas. Sd/- In Hindi. Firm Lala Dhanpat Rai Milkhi Ram, Licensees L. Dhanpat Rai Mohan Lal”.

3.2.4 Opium Market for opium produced in Plach Tehsil

Gusayains from Jawala-mukhi had for very many years been in the habit of visiting Plach Tehsil attracted by the opium and blankets procurable in it and have obliged the less thrifty proprietors with advances, some made as long ago as the time of the Rajas’, which the debtors had not yet paid off. These Gusayains visited outer Saraj annually in June or July and obtained opium and woolens at low rates in payment of the interest on their loans.

There was no difficulty in disposing of opium in Plach tahsil as Gusayains from Jawala mukhi and traders from Simla and from Mandi came to the doors of the people to buy it.

3.2.5 Trade in Spiti Waziri of the Kulu Tahsil

Tibetan pilgrims also did a little trade between Tibet and India, and it was from them and from the Khampas that the Spiti people used to buy tobacco brought from Kulu. It was sold in Spiti at the same price as Indian tea, 5 annas a pound. Two kinds of pipe were in use—one resembling the Indian hookah, and the other of iron, straight with a

26 ibid
27 ibid., para, 38, p. 21
small bowl, like the Chinese opium pipe. Paper was used to be made in Spiti, but the manufacture has been for some time discontinued.

3.2.6 Sultanpore as a Central Asian Trade Market

The sudden increase of the Central Asian trade had tended to make Sooltanpore a place of some importance; and receiving, as it did, the entire traffic passing upwards from Kangra, the hill states, and the adjoining districts, which all stopped here on its way to Leh, besides the merchandise from Eastern Turkestan and Ladakh on its downward route to Mundee and the Punjab, it is not to be wondered that through trade, which in 1862 was computed at £23,000 had risen to £150,000, if this Central Asian commerce continued to prosper as it had done for the last two or three years, there was every probability of Sooltanpore becoming in time a town of considerable wealth and note.

3.2.7 Trade Posts at Sultanpur and Wangtu

On 5/12/1893 corresponding with Chinese date the 28th Day of the 10th moon of the 19th Year of Kaung Hsu, it was decided to establish a trade mart at Yatung on the Tibetan side of the frontier and shall be open to all British subjects for purposes of trade from the first day of May, 1894.

Tibet Trade regulations which were signed by the British and Chinese Commissioners on the 5th Day of December, 1893 were amended vide Foreign Department Notification No.1801.E.C dated Simla, the 15th May, 1908.

There were trade posts at Sultanpur in Kullu and at Wangtu in Bashahr and it was wholly impossible that any Central Asian Trade should not pass one of these on the way. The officials, 1 Moharrir @ Rs.15 p.m, 1 peon on Rs.7/- p.m. Winter allowance for four months at Rs.2 P.M each and contingencies at Rs.2.pm were employed at Sultanpur for the registration of trade at Sultanpur out of Kangra District Budget No.26.

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29 ibid., para 20, p.1
31 ibid.
32 "Trade with Tibet and Ladakh Distinction Between and Trade Routes in Kullu", 1890, Kangra DC Records, B.No.54, Sr.No.908, HP State Archive Shimla
33 Assistant Commissioner Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra Dharamshala, letter No.114 dated 25th September, 1897, para 4.
and other minor Departments for the year 1897-98. It was also proposed that at Simlah (now Shimla) a post is to be opened for registration of the trade traffic between the higher hills and plains should be registered at Simlah post. It was also proposed in the said memorandum at page that from the commencement of the 1st of January, 1867, registration should be effected at all the stations and maintained until the 1st of April, 1868. Monthly cost of the proposed establishment at Simla was Rs. 60/- in Simla District and for such establishments in Kangra Districts at Dhera, Sooltanpoor Koolloo & Noorpoor, Rs. 25 each. The new scheme for registration of trade statistics in the Panjab, was described in Financial commissioner's office Circular No. 13 of 1872 was put in force from the 1st April, 1874. As per this revised scheme, the then registering Post at Shimla with the then establishment of Rs. 25/- was proposed at Wangtu Ferry, with proposed establishment of 1 Moharrir @ salary of Rs. 15/- p.m, 1 Chaprasi with salary of Rs. 7/- p.m and Stationery Rs. 2/-. Similarly for Sultanpur post with the then establishment of Rs. 40/- was proposed establishment with 1 Moharrir @ Rs. 15/-, 1 Chaprasi @ Rs. 7/- and for Stationery Rs. 2/-. 48 Articles were classified in the list to be registered which included Bhang, Charas, Opium, Post and other drugs at Sr. 2 to 6 of this classified list.

3.2.8 Central Asian Trade Route and defects of the Kullu Route

There were two trade routes to Central Asia. One was through Kullu and the other through Kashmir which was much lengthier. The advantages of the central Asian trade route through Kullu were as obvious that there must be strong reasons that induce
traders to prefer the Kashmir road. These reasons as reported in the said report were as follows:

(a) The bridges were put up too late and dismantled too early and transport animals were thus lost in the rivers.

(b) The road over the Lunglacha in Ladakh was as steep as to severely tax the transport animals—probably a new and improved alignment could be carried out at small cost by agreement with the Kashmir Darbar.

(c) It was alleged, now knowing with what truth, that the custom duty on European goods imported into India was refunded in Kashmir or Leh on such of these goods as were exported via the Kashmir route but not on those exported through Kullu.

(d) It was alleged that in Kashmir territory the arrangements for supplies and shelter were considerably better than along the Kullu route which appeared to be correct.

The question of supplies was not so easy to dispose of in Kulu Trade route. Lahaul did not grow enough grain for its own inhabitants and considerable quantities were brought in from Kulu. The total Khalsa revenue of Lahaul was Rs.3024/- of which one fourth was assigned to the Thakur. The Jagir revenue was about Rs.1900/- These sums were of no importance to Government. The revenue might be commuted into service. The landowners were being made responsible for the provision of supplies to traders at all stages in Lahaul and at Kinlong and Lingti.

3.2.9 Direct Trade between Akhara at Sultanpur and Lhassa

There were plenty of traders who come from Thibet and put up in the Akhara at Sultanpur. It was confirmed vide Letter addressed to the Assistant commissioner Kullu vide No.1230 dated 12th December, 1892. The originator of the letter/his superior, had further mentioned in the letter that he remembered trying a case in which the complainant had traded between Lhasa and Sultanpur for fourteen years. He further had written in this letter that he thought that the first thing was for the Trade Registrar to

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42 ibid
43 ibid., para 10, p. 17
44 Ibid.
45 Assistant Commissioner, Kullu addressed letter No.1230 dated 12th December, 1892, para, 2.
lean the names of the provinces of Thibet and of Ladakh. Then he should ask each trader what province he came from and show the trade accordingly. Thus the need was felt for registration of trade from Thibet and Ladakh separately.

A good trade was done here at times, especially in the autumn, when the Yarkandees merchants arrived with their goods to exchange for European. There was a great trade also in borax, some of which was purified in the lower bazaar before being sent to the plains; carpets, churus, and even gold was brought for the plains beyond Lahoul, where there were as many as 1500 persons employed at the diggings for six months in the year.

The appearance of the Yarkandees and Lahoul people was not prepossessing, the latter especially were most disgusting—being filthy, dirty, and forward to impudence, as well as drunken; they hang about Kullu all the winter to the annoyance of everyone and the danger of movable commodities.

In Sultanpur, there was market for selling of local products like hemp ropes and grass shoes (pulla). There was generally a surplus for sale after home requirements had been satisfied and the grass shoes were procurable in the bazaars of Sultanpur in Kullu and Rampur in Bashahr at two annas a pair. Ropes fetched less as they required less hand labour and less time to make than shoes.

3.2.10 Opium & hemp product Market at Sultanpur

The poppy was largely cultivated and was one of the staple of the Kooloo Pargnanah. The produce was sold at Sultanpur the chief town of Kooloo and was imported to Jullundhur, Umritsar (present Amritsar) and Loudianah. It was also taken to Ladakh and Yarkhand. About 200 maunds of opium was sold annually at Sultanpur.

Besides it, most of the hemp fibre, however, was manufactured where it was grown into ropes and grass shoes (pulla), the latter of which were made by the women (both high and low caste, but chiefly low caste). Four pairs of grass-shoes or three

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47 ibid.
48 Gazetteer of Kangra District, Part II, Kulu and Seraj, Ch. IV, “Production and Distribution,” p.85
49 ibid.
50 “Rules and Orders for the Registration of Trade Statistics and Trade Estbl, year,1897”, Kangra DC Record, Batch No.54, Sr.No.905, HP State Archive, Shimla.
51 ibid
52 ibid.
ropes each 30 feet long could be made from two pakka sers of fibre. There was generally a surplus for sale after home requirements had been satisfied, and the grass shoes were procurable in the bazaars of Sultanpur in Kulu and Rampur Bashahr.

The traders of the town were all foreigners, from Punjab or from Lahul and Ladakh, engaged in the transit trade between the plains on the one side and Leh and Central Asia on the other.

The import trade of Kulu was inconsiderable, being almost confined to brass and copper cooking pots from the plains and to cotton piece goods. Cotton cloth was not much worn except in Outer Saraj. The trade between upper India and Central Asia (Ladakh and Yarkand) which passed through Kulu was, however, of some importance, the annual imports and exports being valued each at about three lakh of rupees. The most important import was charas from Yarkand; the traders were required to obtain transport permits at Sultanpur in Kulu before they proceeded to the marts at Amritsar and Hoshiarpur where arrangements had been made in recent years for collecting a tax on possession of the drug. The next most important imports were rugs and carpets, borax, raw silk and; ponies. Gold and silver were also brought down in small quantities, and in 1883 there was some considerable import of sapphires owing to the discovery of a “pocket” in Zanskar, which was worked for some time without the knowledge of the Kashmir Government. The chief exports were cotton piece goods, indigo, skins, opium metals, manufactured silk, sugar and tea; Korans too occasionally appeared among the exports.

3.3 DETAIL OF TRADERS TRADING IN AND FROM KULLU

3.3.1 Bashahris Traders

About 100 mounds of charas passed through Rampur. The charas did not come via Spiti but from a place called Pukar in Kashmir territory. It came from Ladakh via

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54 ibid
55 ibid.
56 Gazetteer of the Kangra District, Chapter VI, "Towns", p. 123
57 Gazetteer of the Kangra District, Chapter IV, "Production and Distribution," p. 100
58 ibid
59 ibid
60 ibid
61 A.C. Kullu, to D.C. Kangra, letter No. 1895 dated 25.11.1895, Trade with Tibet and Ladakh Distinction Between and Trade Route’s in Kulu, year, 1890, Kangra DC Records, Batch No. 54, Sr. No. 908, HP State Archive, Shimla, p. 57
Kashmir to Rampur. The carriers were required to take passes from Leh from Joint Commissioner at Leh.62

The Thakur of Lahaul was of the opinion that about Rs.800/- worth of charas was imported into Rampur via Spiti it being carried over the Parang La Pass from Chu Murti to Kibar and from there to Dhankar until it reaches the Hindustan Thibet road near Pooh.63 However, AC Kullu was of the view that all the charas imported into the Punjab on their side came from Yarkand. The only road from Yarkand to the Punjab on this side passed through Leh, hence far all the charas imported in to the Punjab were this side. The carriers must hold a pass from the Joint commissioner at Leh.64

3.3.2 Lahouli Traders

In 1916, Lahoula traders were charged by Tibetans officials, in addition, 10% as custom duty on all the wool they had brought out of the country.65 This was a tax on exports levied and came to the notice for the first time. Bashahris and Ladakhis traders were, however, allowed to import goods without paying customs duty.

There was one of the principal routes used by the smugglers of shawl wool between Bodak and Lahoul. Were this route to be opened by the British Government and a few Dharamshala or travelers’ houses built at convenient distances, traders in shawl wool from Nurpur and Rampur would be saved the heavy duties which were now levied by Maharaja Golab Singh. The traders would thus be able to obtain their shawl wool direct from the Chinese districts of Bodok and Gardok by a route through British owned territory.66

3.3.3 Gosains of Jawala Mukhi and Nadown

Among the religious sects in the hills, the most remarkable were the “Gosaeens”. They were found chiefly in the neighbourhood of Nadown and Joala Mookee, though they were scattered, in small numbers, throughout the district. They were the great capitalists and traders in the hills, and were an enterprising and sagacious race. By the

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62 A.C. Kullu, to D.C. Kangra, letter No.1895 dated 25.11.1895, Trade with Tibet and Ladakh Distinction Between and Trade Route’s in Kulu,” 1890, Kangra DC Records, Batch No.54, Sr.No.908, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.58
63 ibid
64 ibid
65 “Trade with Tibet and Ladakh Distinction Between and Trade Route’s in Kulu,” 1890, DC Kangra Records, File, Batch No.54, Sr.No.908, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.133
66 ibid
rules of their caste retail negotiations were interdicted, and they deal, exclusively, in staple articles of produce which they disposed off by wholesale. *They possessed almost a monopoly of the trade in opium, which they bought up in Kooloo, and carried down to the plains of the Punjab. They speculated also in Churus, shawl wool, and clothes.* The Gosaeens were distinguished by the general name of “Dusnamee Gosaeens” or Suneeasees. They were divided, as their name implies, into ten tribes. The prevalent tribe in these hills was “Geeree,” the name of the sect being adopted as a patronymic by all the members, as Futeh Geer, Buhadoor Geer, Munee Geer, Mirch Geer etc. The founder of this caste was one Shunkur Acharuj, whose ten pupils or disciples gave rise to the ten sects into whom the brotherhood is distributed. The Gosaeens of Joala Mookee and Nadown had extensive dealings with Haiderabad in the Dekan, and their enterprise carried them in the pursuit of trade over the whole continent of India.

Many Kangra shopkeepers had settled in the valley of Kullu and merchants from even Umballah (Present Ambala) and Umritsar had stores at Sooltanpore.

3.4 FOREIGN TRADE RETURNS FOR KULLU

3.4.1 Charas Imports since 1903

The imports since 1903 and the market rate at Hoshiarpur since 1903 had been as per the following details:

- 1903 imported 3685 maunds, Rate Rs.140/-
- 1904 imported 3097 maunds, Rate Rs.30/-
- 1905 imported 1478 maunds, Rate Rs.40/-
- 1906 imported 1632 maunds, Rate Rs.60/-
- 1907 imported 2096 maunds, Rate Rs.80/-

AC, Kullu reported that he distrusted the above values which were supplied to him from the Tahsils. Local opinion explained last year’s increment as below and the explanations were given for what they were worth:

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68 ibid., p.137
70 Assistant Commissioner, Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, letter No.189 dated 13.3.1907),”Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901,”DC Kangra Records, B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, para 27, p.31

142
1) It was alleged that along with assistant residents dak there came to Kashgar private advices of a heavy rise in charas in the Punjab which led to rigorous buying.

2) The 205 maunds of charas snowed up on the Kashmir road in 1906 did not reach India till April 1907 and paid (in consequence) the enhanced duty. It was popularly supposed that Commissioners of Excise hatched schemes for enhancing duty in the summer and put them into effect in April. And it was, therefore, everything to put one’s charas on the market in November at latest. The danger of delay on the Kulu road was less than that on the Kashmir route. There was no reason to suppose that the Moharrir overestimated the imports in 1907. The remainder of the import trade had deserted the Kulu route for the Kashmir road almost entirely.

There was also a trade route Parangla to Wangtu through a bridge at Dankar originally built by Sir Louis Dame.

3.4.2 Details of Foreign Trade, Returns for Kulu for the year 1906-07

The main feature disclosed by the statistics in the general decline in trade along the Kulu route; exports show a decrease in value of over two lakhs, and though there was an equal increase in the value of imports, this was due to the higher rate at which charas was valued in consequence of the enhancement of duty. In the period under review less than half of the quantity of charas had been imported than was registered in the previous triennium, but the total value had been raised by Rs.1,89,100. The most satisfactory feature of the figures was the great increase of Rs.1,07,450 in the value of raw silk imported; while non intoxicating drugs showed an increase of Rs.13,664/-

The effect to the trade by the enhanced duty on charas was shown by the decline in the volume of cotton goods exported which averaged only Rs.58897/- for the last two years as compared with an annual average of Rs.176634 for the previous four years.

The figures show exports of Rs.1,58,587 and imports of Rs.10,48,034 thus total foreign trade was of Rs.12,06,621/- The figures were useful only for the purposes of

72 ibid., p.35
73 ibid., para 6, page 23
74 ibid., p.29
comparison with previous years. And even as their value was limited. From there it would appear that trade had been exceptionally brisk. In fact it had been meager as usual the import figures had been unduly inflated by the inclusion of the import duty (raised this year to 8 rupees) in the valuation of charas. The actual price of charas in Leh was about Rs.2/- a seer; and 2096 maunds were entered as imported. The following figures accordingly showed approximately the volume of trade: Imports Rs.3, 77314, Exports Rs, 158,587 and Total Rs.5, 35,901.

3.4.3 Foreign Trade returns for Kulu from Tibet for the year 1909-1910 and for the triennium 1907-08 to 1909-10

The import trade from Tibet amounted in value during 1909-10 to Rs.70550/- as compared with Rs.95981 in 1908-09 and export trade to Rs.2665/- as compared with Rs.3193/-. Charas came down in large quantities and was very cheap at Rs.40/- per maund. The profits for a time was enormous, as letters from Yarkand had started a scare that the extraction of the drug was to be stopped, and the price was Rs.160/- the same thing happened in 1884. And the losses of Hoshiarpur men in that year who held up the drug two long was very great. It was to be hoped that this would not repeat the experiment.

Since the above remarks were written, but it was heard that most the production of charas in Yarkand was not likely to be stopped after all. The story was told that the order prohibiting its extraction was issued by a local officer on his own responsibility. This checked the sowing of hemp generally by the more knowing cultivator’s sowed hemp, explaining that it was to be used for fibre only and meanwhile approached higher authority “on the manner customary in India.” Against the order, it can be summed up on the order which was repudiated and it was said that charas would be imported as before and the people took to sowing hemp again.

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75 Assistant Commissioner Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, Nurpur, letter No.230 dated 2nd May, 1910, Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, DC Kangra Records, Head 28, File No.1(1), B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, para 2, page 50
76 Ibid., para vii, page 56
77 Ibid., para ix, page 57
Table 3.1 Detail of charas imported

The amount of charas imported during these periods was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>In maunds</th>
<th>“Value” (including duty)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901-02 to 1903-04</td>
<td>11214</td>
<td>1618020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904-05 to 1906-07</td>
<td>6207</td>
<td>1807120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-08 to 1909-10</td>
<td>4700</td>
<td>775020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Putting aside charas, however, the figure for the import trade of 1910-11 was larger than the average for 1907-1910 as regards charas, less in bulk was imported during the year under report than in the previous year but its value was more. It was said that charas was now being freely manufactured in Yarkand and that a very large import was to be expected in 1911-12. The figures for the trade passing through Kulu in 1910 might be regarded as satisfactory. The arrangement for the licensing of charas dealers was engaging attention. The trade appeared to be monopoly of a powerful group of traders in Hoshiarpur District whose methods were some what obscure.

3.4.4 External trade returns for Kulu Sub Division for the year 1911-12

No one had taken up the Leh licence abandoned three years ago by Shadi Lal of Hoshiarpur. More charas left Leh for India via Kullu in the year under report than was recorded in these returns, for a large consignment was prevented from crossing the Rohtang pass by exceptionally early snowfall. It would be entered in the next returns.

3.4.5 Foreign trade statistics registered at Sultanpur

A report on the external land trade registered at the Sultanpur post over the years showed decrease in trade as per the following details. The most noticeable feature in the figures for the year 1905-06 under report was the marked decrease in the volume of trade, a decrease which appears in both imports and exports and in almost every kind of merchandise.

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78 Ibid., para 4(iii), page 59
79 Assistant Commissioner, Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, Nurpur, letter No.209 dated 24.4.1911, Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, DC Kangra Records, Head 28, File No.1(1), B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.74-75
80 Ibid., pp.75-76
81 Assistant Commissioner, Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, Dharamshala vide letter No.317 dated 4th April, 1913, Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, DC Kangra Records, Head 28, File No.1(1), B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, para 5, page 97
82 Assistant Commissioner, Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, Nurpur, letter No.154 dated 24th April, 1906, Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, DC Kangra Records, Head 28, File No.1(1), B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.12
Table Details of volume of trade from 1902-03 to 1905-06 from Sultanpur Post

Table 3.2 Detail of volume of trade, 1902-03 to 1905-06

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1902-03</th>
<th>1903-04</th>
<th>1904-05</th>
<th>1905-06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>307504</td>
<td>348242</td>
<td>379801</td>
<td>169835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>679155</td>
<td>620719</td>
<td>1053637</td>
<td>577917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume of trade</td>
<td>986659</td>
<td>968961</td>
<td>1433438</td>
<td>747752</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Para 2 of Assistant Commissioner, Kullu letter No.154 dated 24th April, 1906 to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, Nurpur accessed from HP State Archive Files, B.No.54, Sr.No.904

During 1905-06, the volume of trade decreased to about one half. The chief factor in this result was the great decrease amount to over one half in the quantity and value of charas imported due to the enhanced charas duty.

Table showing comparative quantity and value of charas imported from other imports excluding charas.

Table 3.3 Comparative quantity and value of charas imported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1902-03</th>
<th>1903-04</th>
<th>1904-05</th>
<th>1905-06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>558650</td>
<td>479050</td>
<td>929100</td>
<td>421060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charas Imported</td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>3871 maunds</td>
<td>3685 maunds</td>
<td>3097 maunds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other imports excluding charas</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>120505</td>
<td>141669</td>
<td>124537</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Para 3 of Assistant Commissioner, Kullu letter No.154 dated 24th April, 1906 to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, Nurpur accessed from HP State Archive Files, B.No.54, Sr.No.904

Settlement Officer, Kulu to Deputy Commissioner Kangra District, Dharamshala vide his No.317 dated 4th April, 1913 in Para 5 of the report stated that the trade in borax had collapsed, that in charas was steady. Comparison between the last two periods of three years was vitiated by the inaccurate record of destination and origin, already noted, and by the inclusion of the excise duty in the assumed value of charas imported in 1907-09. If the 1907 consignment of charas be valued at Rs.80/-, the rate adopted subsequently to that year, the total import trade for the triennium 1907-10 was reduced by Rs.670720 to Rs.559842/-

83 ibid., paras 2-3, p.12
85 Assistant Commissioner Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, Dharamshala, letter No.317 dated 4th April, 1913, Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, DC Kangra Records, Head 28, File No.1(1), B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, para 6, page 97

146
In this trade, the all important article was charas the import of which appeared to be in the hands of a close and successfully exclusive community. The duty on the drug had been raised from Rs.2/- to Rs.10/- per ser since 1903. In his report No.154 of 24th April,1906, the assistant commissioner of Kulu considered that the rise in duty was a crushing blow to the trade with Yarkand, basing his opinion on the decline in import and export trade registered at Sultanpur, glance at the Kashmir trade returns prove that charas was imported in as great quantities now a days as it was before. But much of it went by the Kashmir route the diversion having taken place after 1905 before when the favourite route for charas was the Kulu one. Probably the destruction of Kulu roads by the earthquake was an important cause of the change. The duty was to be raised again to Rs.12/- per ser this year. No charas was smuggled through Kullu.

3.4.6 Report on the External land trade registered at Kyelang

The trade between Tibet and Kangra was registered by the Trade Muharrir at Kyelang, Lahoul throughout the year 1917-18. In July the registers were inspected by the Assistant Commissioner of Kulu and the work was found to be done fairly well. The substitution of the Kyelang for the Sultanpur Trade Post has proved to be a correct measure, though after September it was impossible to ensure the transmission of the monthly returns to Kulu by the date owing to the Rohtang pass being closed from time to time by snow. Little of the trade that passes through Kyelang escaped registration, as all merchants halt there. But undoubtedly a minute volume of imports, mostly of wool, biangis (Tibetan sheep), goats and ponies reaches Kulu from Tibet, via Spiti and Jhamta Pass, which was not registered.

Much of Western Tibet was dependent on Lahoul, Kulu and other British tracts for its food supplies, so the increased export of Barley, (plus Rs.1556 &389 maunds), which to some extent was due to the fact the less wheat, rice and other food staples were available, was not surprising. It should be remembered that, as no Tibetan in Western Tibet will take anything but Indian Rupees or goods in payment.

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86 ibid.,p.103
87 ibid.,p.104
89 Ibid.
Any restriction in the circulation of silver coin in Kangra would severely check the Kangra Tibetan trade. Currency notes had no circulation in Western Tibet, but the Indian Rupee was said to be generally known and accepted as freely as the local Tanka.  

3.5 SITUATION OF SANN HEMP INDIAN TRADE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

3.5.1 Import, export and transport of Sann hemp from India.

Sann hemp plant was one of the important fiber yielding plants of India. It was grown to a greater or less extent in all parts of the country. Among the fibre crops it ranked next in importance only to jute and cotton. Besides fibre, Sann hemp crop was also valued for green manuring.

Indian Sann hemp found its way to European markets as early as 17th century. The quantities exported have considerably increased during the present century.

The quantities of Sann Hemp exported to different countries from ports in India during the five quinquennial from 190910/1913-15 to 1929/30/1933-34 were given below to give an idea of the share of different countries in the exports from India can be easily had from this data.

3.5.2 Export of Sann hemp from India

The details given hereunder are expressed as percentage to total exports and are in thousand tons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Average 1909-10 to 1913-14</th>
<th>Average 1914-15 to 1918-19</th>
<th>Average 1919-20 to 1923-24</th>
<th>Average 1924-25 to 1928-29</th>
<th>Average 1929-30 to 1933-34</th>
<th>Average 1934-35 to 1938-39</th>
<th>Average 1939-40 to 1943-44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>61.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Exports</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Agricultural Marketing in India, "Bulletin on the Marketing of Sann Hemp in India, Printed by Indian Press Ltd. Calcutta, marketing Series No.61, Page 8

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90 Ibid., para.3
91 Agricultural Marketing in India, "Bulletin on the Marketing of Sann Hemp in India, Indian Press Ltd., Calcutta, Marketing Series No.61, p. v.
3.5.3 Supply and Duty on Ganja, Charas and Bhang in India

The principal authorized sources of ganja supply were small areas of cultivation in Rajshahi (Eastern Bengal) and Nimar (Central Provinces). Madras produced its own supply, and Bombay was supplied partly by cultivation with in the Presidency and partly by import from Nimar\(^2\). The duty on Rajshahi ganja was Rs.11 a seer in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and also in Bengal (excluding Orissa, where it is Rs.9 a seer). In the United Provinces the duty varied from Rs.6 to Rs.9 a seer, according to the description of the drug; but it was intended to levy a uniform rate of Rs.11. On other sorts of ganja the duty was Rs.4 a seer; but this rate was raised to Rs. On in the Central Provinces, Ajmer Merwara, and Baluchistan in April, 1906, and similar enhancements elsewhere were contemplated\(^3\).

Charas was mainly derived from Central Asia. It entered the Punjab by prescribed routes and was stored in government bonded warehouses\(^4\). On issue for consumption in the Punjab and certain Native States, it formerly paid a duty of Rs.2 a seer, which was raised to Rs.6 in 1904\(^5\). The greater part was, however, exported in bond to the United Provinces, where it now paid a duty of Rs.6, and a smaller quantity to Bengal, where the rate of duty was Rs.12 a seer\(^6\). It was, however, exported in bond to the United Provinces, where it now paid a duty of Rs.6, and a smaller quantity to Bengal, where the rate of duty was Rs.12 a seer.

A duty varying from 8 annas to Rs.1 a seer was levied on bhang in Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and the Central Provinces\(^7\).

A duty varying from 8 annas to Rs.1 a seer was levied on bhang in Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and the Central Provinces. In Punjab, and also in the United Provinces, there were small import and transport duties and an acreage tax on licensed cultivation\(^8\). In Assam, where the population was sparse and wild plant grew freely, the only restriction it had been found possible to impose was a limit on possession without licence\(^9\).

\(^2\) Imperial Gazetteer of India, v. 4, p. 260.
\(^3\) Ibid
\(^4\) Ibid
\(^5\) Ibid
\(^6\) Ibid
\(^7\) Ibid
\(^8\) Imperial Gazetteer of India, v. 4, p. 261
\(^9\) Ibid
3.5.4 Vend Lincence Fees for sale of hemp in India

Licences which covered the retail sale of all forms of hemp drugs were usually sold by auction. In most cases single shops were leased, but sometimes the shops over a defined area were farmed. Distribution was aided by the sale of whole sale bend licencese and establishment of convenient depots.

3.6 YARKAND TRADE

The Yarkand trade had been practically dependent on charas. All the Mercandise registered at Sultanpur were exported to Ladakh and from there to Yarkand. Charas had for long been the main article of barter in exchange for European cotton goods, coral and tea.

3.6.1 Charas Imports from Yarkand to Kangra Distt.

During July, August, September, October and November, 1893, 2873 maunds of weight charas valuing of Rs.1, 43,360/- was imported out of total A Class item import of Rs 253935/-. The share of charas imports thus came to 56.5 %. It ranked number one item of import with 56.4% of total import of Rs.2, 53,935/- The rate per maund was worked out @ Rs.49.90 per maund.

**A Class Total Trade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Trade</td>
<td>143360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charas(2873 maunds)</td>
<td>253935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fig. 3.1** Detail of A Class Trade from Yarkand to Kangra

100 ibid
101 ibid
102 ibid
103 Assistant Commissioner, Kullu to Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District, Nurpur, letter No.154 dated 24th April, 1906, Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, Kangra DC Records, Head 28, File No. 1(1),” B No. 54 Sr. No. 904, HP State Archive, Shimla, para 4, page 12
104 ibid., para 4, page 12
105 Dy. Commissioner Kangra, Dharassaha, statement dated 26th January, 1894
106 “Trade with Tibet and Ladakh Distinction Between and Trade Route’s in Kulu,” year, 1890, letter No. 1892 to A.C. Kullu, dated 17.1.93, Kangra DC Records, File, Batch No. 54, Sr. No. 908, HP State Archive, Shimla, p. 45
3.6.2 Exports of drugs and medicines to India from Ladakh

The only export under this head was charas. About 4000 maunds of charas might have been exported to Ladakh in the year under notice i.e. 31 March 1908. The consignments which reached Hoshiarpur early in the trade season fetched good prices-up to Rs.130 a pai (56¼ seers). The then price of charas in Yarkand ranges from Tengas 150 to Tengas 300 per pai, according to quality. Charas was exported via Wakkhan to Afghanistan; it was said, for smuggling into British Indian territory.107

3.7 KASHGARH TRADE

3.7.1 Kashgar Trade Report: Exports to India

The mainstay of the export trade with India was the drug Cannabis indica, locally termed Nasha and known as charas in India. It was prepared from the hemp which was planted round, the fields of maize in the four districts of Kashgar, Yangi Hissar, Yarkand and Kargalik. A tax of Rs.12 per seer of lbs.2 was levied in India on the sale of this drug by the Indian authorities. In 1914 the export was of excellent quality aggregating 4662 a maunds. Owing to that enormous export, prices which were good at first soon fell and some of the exporters lost money. The local buying rate had averaged Rs.15 per lbs.21.108

3.8 LADAKH TRADE

3.8.1 Ladakh Trade Report for the year ending 31st March, 1908

The figures drugs and medicines (charas) are given below for comparison:

Table 3.5 Value of drugs and medicines, 1906-08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906-07</td>
<td>3818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-08</td>
<td>3749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906-07</td>
<td>169815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-08</td>
<td>279576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>109761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ladakh Trade Report (Printed) for the year ending 31st March, 1908, page 2


The decrease in quantity was insignificant and did not require any remark, but the increase in value was due to the good market for this commodity in the Punjab. The average price of a maund of charas had risen from Rs.41/- to Rs.75/- during the year. The rise in value was due to a corner in this commodity having been made by Laku Mal of Hoshiarpur. The price of charas rose during the year under report from Rs.80 until it finally reached Rs.130 per bundle.

There were 200 maunds of charas still lying in the Leh warehouse which had not been sold and imported to the Punjab owing to the absence of the owners. This would be done when the names of the owners were definitely known, on the arrival of caravans from Yarkand.109

There were imports from Central Asia into Ladakh. Page 10, Table I of the Ladakh Trade report for the year ending 31st March, 1908 mentioned that 3749 maunds valuing Rs.279576/- were imported into Ladakh from Chinese Turkistan.110 Imports from Ladakh into British India during the period ending March 1908 in respect of charas via Kulu was 2095 maunds valuing of Rs.1,58200 and 1556 maunds were imported via Kashmir to Punjab valuing Rs.121306/-. Thus the total import111 from Ladakh to Punjab via Kulu and Kashmir amounted to 3651 maunds of Rs.279506/-

Report on the Indo Chinese Turkistan Trade via Ladakh for the year ending on the 31st March, 1909 reported that the Rouble was now higher than it had been for many years. Its present value was 12.75 Tengas. Indian traders had two means of transmitting their money to India, by exporting charas, raw silk, Numdahs, etc., and by buying Russian gold.112

3.8.2 Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending the 31st March, 1912

In this report113 the Merchandise coming from Chinese Turkistan and Tibet was called Imports. Merchandise coming from the Punjab was called Exports. Merchandise bound for the Punjab was called Imports to the Punjab. Merchandise bound for Central Asia was called Exports to Central Asia.

109 Ladakh Trade Report for the year ending 31st March, 1908, Kangra DC Records, Head 28, File No.1(1), Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.2
110 ibid., p.10
111 Ladakh Trade Report for the year ending 31st March, 1908-Imports from Ladakh into British India, Kangra DC Records, Head 28, File No.1(1), Annual Report on External Land Trade, year 1901, B.No.54 Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.11
The total value of imports and exports for the year 1911-12 amounted to Rs.35,98,871/- against Rs.27,69,253 during the previous year, showing an increase in value of Rs.8,29,618.

Table: Showing comparative figures of the value of imports and exports

Table 3.6 Comparative figures of the value of imports and exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>1907-08</th>
<th>1908-09</th>
<th>1909-10</th>
<th>1910-11</th>
<th>1911-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imports</strong></td>
<td>1775342</td>
<td>1609586</td>
<td>1647078</td>
<td>1374860</td>
<td>1568403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exports</strong></td>
<td>2008835</td>
<td>2624624</td>
<td>1304643</td>
<td>1394513</td>
<td>2030468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3784177</td>
<td>4234210</td>
<td>2952621</td>
<td>2769373</td>
<td>3598871</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending on the 31st March, 1912, para 4, page 8

Table showing the chief articles under which a marked increase or decrease in value of Imports and exports has occurred during the year 1910-11 and 1911-12

Table 3.7 Detail of increase or decrease in value of imports and exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name of article</th>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Name of article</th>
<th>Exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Between 1910-11 and 1911-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Between 1910-11 and 1911-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Horses, ponies, mules etc.</td>
<td>3295</td>
<td></td>
<td>Horses, ponies, mules etc.</td>
<td>1260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cotton Twst and Yaran, European</td>
<td>5774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Borax</td>
<td>5295</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cotton Piece goods, European</td>
<td>351093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cotton Piece goods, Foreign</td>
<td>2843</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cotton Piece goods-Indian</td>
<td>28132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Charas</td>
<td>26917</td>
<td></td>
<td>Medicines</td>
<td>4179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jewellery</td>
<td>10815</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Indigo</td>
<td>23065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Namdahs</td>
<td>4615</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Other Kinds(paints)</td>
<td>32635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Carpets</td>
<td>3575</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>13340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Salt, Tibetan</td>
<td>16842</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Grim</td>
<td>8812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Silk, raw</td>
<td>71596</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Skins</td>
<td>66725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Silk Piece goods, Foreign</td>
<td>3108</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Coral</td>
<td>12297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lhama tea</td>
<td>14779</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Brass and Copper</td>
<td>4618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wool, raw and Pusham</td>
<td>7227</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>5567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Woollenen yarn</td>
<td>28262</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Silk piece goods, European</td>
<td>42352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>18023</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Silk piece goods Indian</td>
<td>47961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Yambu</td>
<td>6510</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Spices</td>
<td>3028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Russian gold coin</td>
<td>261279</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Chna tea</td>
<td>3846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Silver coin</td>
<td>2989</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Woollenen piece goods, European</td>
<td>7015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>All other articles: Manufactured</td>
<td>7348</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Russian gold coin</td>
<td>2507</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Silver coin</td>
<td>4006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>341154</td>
<td>-148761</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-656323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending on the 31st March, 1912, para 5, page 8

114 Ibid.
3.8.3 Imports from Ladakh into British India.

The details of such imports are given in the table.

Table 3.8 Detail of imports from Ladakh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Punjab</th>
<th>Kashmir Proper</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Balance showing difference between Imports into Ladakh from Central Asia and those from Ladakh into India.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charas:</td>
<td>1737</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>138968</td>
<td>1134</td>
<td>91620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending on the 31st March, 1912, Imports, page 15

3.8.4 Exports to India during 1912

In 1912, charas was plentiful in Yarkand, Goma, Kargalik, Yangi Hissar and Khanarike; the prohibition for its cultivation made in 1910 by the Chinese authorities having remained in abeyance.

Present local prices were as follows:

For 1st quality about Rs.14 per charak of 21 lbs.
For 2nd quality about Rs.6 per charak of 21 lbs
For 3rd quality about Rs 4-8-0 per charak of 21 lbs.

Hoshiarpur prices appeared to be:
For 1st quality Rs.170 per pai,
For 2nd quality Rs.110 per pai.

Traders appeared to have been satisfied with the profit they made on the 1912-13 charas. It is said that about 1300 pony loads (3250 maunds) of charas would be sent to Ladakh in the autumn of 1913115.

The traders had been fairly well satisfied with their venture in respect of exports for Turkistan goods for India. The 1912-13 charas sold well in the Punjab. No marked profit was made however made in India on the raw silk from Khotan or on numdahs or

pasham, yet they served their purpose, with more gain than loss, as a medium for the transfer of funds to India\textsuperscript{116}.

3.8.5 Report on the Ladakh trade for the Year ending on the 31st March, 1913.

The trade figures for 1911-12 and 1912-13 in respect of charas are given as hereunder:

\begin{table}[h!]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
 & 1911-12 & 1912-13 \tabularnewline
\hline
Charas & 3176 mds & 3062 mds. \tabularnewline
\hline
Decrease & 114 maunds & \tabularnewline
\hline
Value & Rs.255492 & R. 254854 \tabularnewline
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Report on Ladakh Trade as on 31.3.1913}
\end{table}

Source: Report on the Ladakh trade for the Year ending on the 31st March, 1913, page, 6

The decrease in value was insignificant and did not call for remark. The decrease in quantity was due to the charas bundles having been made of 1 and \(\frac{1}{4}\) maunds instead of 1 and \(\frac{1}{2}\) maunds, in compliance with transport orders, and to the unusually heavy export of charas said to have taken place to Badakhshan. The market in Leh was not active, but in the Punjab it was fairly good. The average price for the first quality of charas in Chinese Turkistan was Rs.62 per bundle of 1 and \(\frac{1}{4}\) maunds, while the rate for the same quality in Leh and the Punjab was Rs.90 and Rs.122 respectively. Charas of the second quality was imported in large quantities and caused a considerable fall in the price at Leh and in the Punjab. The Chinese authorities did not create any obstacles to the growth of the plant during the year, and in view of the revolutionary movements in Chinese Turkistan, which considerably disturbed the people of the country, the year as regards the trade in charas was not unsatisfactory. The total quantity of charas imported to the Punjab and Kashmir during the year was 3040 maunds. The duty on charas had been increased by Government from Rs.10 to Rs.12 per seer from 1st April, 1913\textsuperscript{117}.

The trade with India via Leh, which was carried along the extraordinary track, was of considerable value. The published statistics of the Joint commissioner for Leh showed a total trade of Rs.29, 50475 for 1913 and of Rs.2437363 for 1914. The exports

\textsuperscript{116} ibid.,p.1
\textsuperscript{117} ibid.,p. 6-7
to India (shown in the statistics as “Imports”) were practically stationary in quantity, the decrease of about two lakhs of rupees being due to the lower price of the charas\textsuperscript{118}.

3.8.6 Report on the Ladakh trade for the year ending the 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1915.

The figures in respect of charas as compared with 1913-14 were as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Maunds</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913-14</td>
<td>4222</td>
<td>559093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>4756</td>
<td>377107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>534 Dec</td>
<td>1,81986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The high prices and profits obtainable last year, combined with the exceptionally good crops available, and the difficulty of sending remittances in money, were responsible for the very large quantity, unprecedented since 1903-04, imported during the year.

Good profits continued to be made in the early months of the year but the price of first class Charas at Leh soon fell to Rs.88 per maund as against Rs.140 obtainable last year. At the same time the price in the Punjab fell to Rs.90 so that export was no longer profitable and the Leh price eventually fell as low as Rs.30 as against Rs.60 in the Punjab. The market was more favourable for second class Charas, the price of which at Leh in the early part of the year was Rs.32 as against Rs.60 in the Punjab. The vast stocks that had become accumulated in the Punjab godowns were responsible for the utter collapse of the market during the year and the heavy resulting losses to traders. This rise and fall in the Charas market was no new phenomenon and there were already signs of a recovery, which should be accelerated by the reported partial failure of the then current years’ crops. There was every probability that the large unsold stocks lying in the warehouses of Leh and Hoshiarpur will eventually realize remunerative prices\textsuperscript{119}.

3.8.7 Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1916

Trade in respect of Charas was as per the following figures:

\textsuperscript{118} Report on the Indo Yarkand Trade for the year ending the 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1915, Kangra DC Records, File Head, Annual Report on External land trade year 1901, B.No.54, Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.31

\textsuperscript{119} Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending the 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1915, Kangra DC Records, File Head, Annual Report on External land trade year 1901, B.No.54 ,Sr.No.904, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.4
Table 3.11  Report on Ladakh Trade for the year ending 31st March, 1916

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maunds</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>4756</td>
<td>377107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915-16</td>
<td>3197</td>
<td>294369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>1559</td>
<td>82738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A glance at the figures of the last five years was instructive:

Table 3.12  Detail of trade in charas, 1911-12 to 1915-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1911-12</th>
<th>1912-13</th>
<th>1913-14</th>
<th>1914-15</th>
<th>1915-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maunds</td>
<td>3176</td>
<td>3062</td>
<td>4222</td>
<td>4756</td>
<td>3197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It would be seen that the figures for the two seasons immediately preceding that under review were very high. The figures of the present year were again normal. Under ordinary circumstances much less Charas would have been imported, as large stocks had been reported from the Punjab warehouses. But it was known that Government was raising the duty by Rs.2 per seer on arrivals after 1st April 1916 and in order to benefit by the lower duty and thus saved Rs.2 for every seer(Rs.80 per maund) the traders brought in and took on to the Punjab as much Charas as they had the faintest hope of selling. The low prices prevailing during the season (Rs.80 per maund for 1st class) showed that there was no dearth of the drug in Chinese Turkistan

3.8.8 Report on the Trade of Ladakh for the year ending 31st March, 1917

Charas trade remained as per the following statistics:

Table 3.13  Report on the Trade of Ladakh for the year ending 31st March, 1917

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maunds</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1915-16</td>
<td>3197</td>
<td>294369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-17</td>
<td>3076</td>
<td>306512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Increase 12143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The increase in value of this drug was noted worthy; large amounts of unsold Charas accumulated in the Punjab godowns during 1914 and 1915, the demand for the drug having decreased owing to the war. During the year under report traders endeavored to revive the sale by purchasing in Yarkand a better quality of the drug than usual, hence the value had assumed a higher rate than previously in comparison with the quantity

3.8.9 Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending 31st March, 1918

The comparative figures in respect of charas trade remained as under:

Table 3.14 Report on the Ladakh Trade for the year ending 31st March, 1918

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maunds</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916-17</td>
<td>3076</td>
<td>306512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-18</td>
<td>1723</td>
<td>270097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease</td>
<td>1353</td>
<td>36415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The falling off was remarkable and especially when it was borne in mind that the traders knew of the fact that government were raising the duty by Rs.4 per seer on arrivals after April 1st, 1918. It was ascribed chiefly to raw silk, treasure and Russian paper money—the most profitable articles of trade of the year—having taken the place of Charas as a medium of exchange among Muhammadan traders, and to a lesser degree to the surplus from preceding years remaining unsold in the Punjab warehouses at the end of the last year. It was worthy of note, however, that the quantity of Charas imported this year was not only much below the figures of last year but was quite unequal to the actual demand in India. As a result the average sale price in Leh rose rapidly to Rs.157 per maund a compared with Rs.96 prevalent last year and the traders derived exceptionally good profits. This event also explained the disproportionate decrease in the ration of quantity to value under this heading.121

3.8.10 Report on the trade of Ladakh for the year ending 31st March, 1920

Charas trade figures remained as under:

Table 3.15 Report on the trade of Ladakh for the year ending 31st March, 1920

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maunds</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1918-19</td>
<td>2673</td>
<td>417334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-20</td>
<td>3669</td>
<td>425388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>8054</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Report on the trade of Ladakh for the year ending 31st March, 1920, page 4

A glance at the figures of the past few years was instructive.

---

Table 3.16  5 Year Report on the Trade of Ladakh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1915-16</th>
<th>1916-17</th>
<th>1917-18</th>
<th>1918-19</th>
<th>1919-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maund</td>
<td>3196</td>
<td>3076</td>
<td>1723</td>
<td>2673</td>
<td>3669</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Report on the trade of Ladakh for the year ending 31st March, 1920, page 4

The figures showed the imports of the 2 seasons immediately preceding the one under review, and it would be seen that the figures for these two years were very low. This had been a most profitable article of import of the year which was evident from the increase in weight and value as compared with the figures of the last year. The rich crop of the drugs and the failure of the silk crop induced the traders to invest as much of their capital in the bargain as could be available and the imports consequently attained fairly a large scale. The Punjab government raised the duty by Rs.6 per seer on arrivals after 1st April 1920, in order to benefit by the lower duty, and thus earned Rs.6 for every seer (Rs.240 per maund) the traders brought in much charas and took it onto the Punjab\(^{122}\).

### 3.9 TURKISTAN TRADE

#### 3.9.1 Report on the Trade of Eastern Turkistan with China, Russia and India for the year ending the 31st March, 1917

In the year under report, this drug (charas) was taken to India in about the same quantity as in the preceding twelve months; but it was purchased in Yarkand at rates higher than previously.

The cultivation of charas, though it was officially forbidden in 1910, had gone on as usual. Now, seeing that the New Dominion Governor had sanctioned an excise duty of 4 Taels per 100 chings on the drug, the interdiction of the cultivation of the charas plant may be considered as an end. The charas to go to India in 1917-18 would have been acquired from native cultivators who would have paid the tax, before sale of their charas to Indian traders.

Sale prices in India in 1916-17 were said to have been unfavourable, ranging as they did only from Rs.70 to Rs.100 per pai of 100 lbs.

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Charas exported to Badakhshan during the year via the Wakhijir pass amounted to about 200 pony loads.\textsuperscript{123}

\textbf{3.9.2 Report on the trade of Chinese Turkistan with India, China, Russia, Badakhshan and Afghanistan for the year ending 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1919}

The chief feature of the year in respect of export to India was the largely increased export of charas, being just upon one thousand maunds in excess of the previous year. Excellent profits were realized by traders in this drug, prices in Hoshiarpur ranging from Rs.250 to Rs.325 per 100 lbs, this quantity purchased in Yarkand and including carriage to Hoshiarpur costing Rs.70 to Rs.100. In view of these figures it remained for consideration whether it would not be advisable to still further increase the duty thereon.\textsuperscript{124}

Despite the official proclamations forbidding the opium traffic it still flourished and such was the demand that it was now being brought from as far as a field as Persia through Badakhshan and Afghanistan. Some nine hundred pony loads of opium, totaling about 2250 maunds, were brought in from Afghan territory during the year under report, the price at present averaging 15 taels per pound. In 1917-18 the price was as much as forty to forty five taels, but the decrease had resulted from the large quantities of the drug now cultivated in Kansu province, and in the Kara Kul district of the Russian province of Semirechia.\textsuperscript{125} Opium was the one and only articles traders considered.\textsuperscript{126}

\textbf{3.10 FRONTIER TRADE}

\textbf{3.10.1 Frontier Trade Report 1916-19}

Since June, 1916 the registering trade post had been situated at Kyelang in Lahoul in place of Akhara, Kulu. All Tibetan goods, consumed by the Kulu and Lahoul tracts, lying between Sultanpur and Kyelang were now registered at Kyelang while they

\textsuperscript{123} G. McCartney, His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Report on the Trade of Eastern Turkistan with China, Russia and India for the year ending the 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1917, Kangra DC Records, FileNo.28(I)-II, "Annual Report on External Land Trade, 1916, B.No.54, Sr.No.906, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.28

\textsuperscript{124} Report on the trade of Chinese Turkistan with India, China, Russia, Badakhshan and Afghanistan for the year ending 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1919, Kangra DC Records, File No.28(I)-II, Annual Report on External Land Trade, 1916, B.No.54, Sr.No.906, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.3

\textsuperscript{125} ibid

\textsuperscript{126} P.T. Etherton, Major, Officiating His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Kashgar, report on the trade of Chinese Turkistan with India, China, Russia, Badakhshan and Afghanistan for the year ending 31\textsuperscript{st} March, 1919 dated 2\textsuperscript{nd} July, 1919, Kangra DC Records, B.No.54, Sr.No.906, HP State Archive, Shimla, p.4
were previously not recorded at the Akhara Post, Sultanpur. However under present conditions, the trifling volume of trade that found its way to Kulu, via the lower Spiti valley through Lari, and via the Parangla through Kibar, and thence over the Kunzam & Hampta Passes, escaped record. This trade included little except flocks, both sheep under loads of wool or pashm, and some mature goats and numerous kids. A few Tibetan rugs & curiosities also reached Kulu by these routes. Although these routes were fairly direct, especially that over the Parang pass and Via Haple to Chakang as in Western Tibet and grazing was good almost throughout, they will never probably be used by traders from the west of the Mid Himalayas; and for Lahoulas the routes from Kyelang beyond the Baralacha would always remained rather more direct, especially to Rudok and probably easier. As had been noted in previous reports that Spitals, the only people, who might profitably use these routes, scarcely trade at all.

The imports of the last triennium were shown by the import statement to have weighed 29981 maunds, valued Rs.808612 against 16721 maunds, valued Rs.521087 in 1913-15 and 15705 maunds valued Rs.344811 in 1910-13. Three times as many sheep and goats as were registered in either of the previous trienniary, were recorded in this trienniary. Many of them were used as carriers, so any increase in imports of wool or salt was necessarily accompanied by a corresponding increase of imported flocks. Many of these carriers were sold in Kulu or Lahoul and few find their way back to Tibet.

3.11 HOSHIARPUR TRADE

3.11.1 Import, export and transport of Charas from Charas Warehouse at Hoshiarpur

The statement showed that during last six years the following quantities of charas were removed from this warehouse in bond and out of bond:

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128 ibid
129 ibid
130 ibid, para 2, p. 2
131 ibid
Table 3.17 Import, export and transport of Charas from Charas Warehouse at Hoshiarpur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>2149</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>2686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>1338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>1152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>1169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>1429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A letter from A.C Macnabb, Esquire, I.C.S. Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner Punjab, to the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, Lahore Division, Rawalpindi Division, Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Amritsar and Ralpindi bearing No.1304-E&S dated Lahore, dated 25th February, 1930, page 2.

The charas warehouse at Hoshiarpur was the most important warehouse in British India. It supplied charas to all the Provinces in British India where its sale was not prohibited. It also supplied Charas to all the Native States in British India and the Punjab Districts. The Hoshiarpur traders had elaborate trade connections with Yarkand and Leh.

On 9th and 10th February, 1930, there were 863 bundles of charas in the warehouse belonging to the following persons:

Table 3.18 Detail of bundles of charas in Hoshiarpur charas warehouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No. of bundles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Dhanpat Rai Mohan Lal</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Chamba Mal Harkishen Das</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Mela Mal Shib Diyal</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Shadi Lai Dwarka Nath</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Khushi Ram Mukhi Ram</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Shiv Ram Das Gujar Mal</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>863</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

132 A.C Macnabb, Esquire, I.C.S. Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner Punjab to the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, Lahore Division, Rawalpindi Division, Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Amritsar and Ralpindi, letter No.1304-E&S dated Lahore, dated 25th February, 1930, page 2.
133 ibid.
134 ibid.
135 ibid.p.1
3.11.2 Consumption of opium poppy in Punjab

The Consumption of all Kinds of opium in British District, during the last three years has stood as follows.

Table 3.19 Detail of consumption of opium poppy in Punjab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Excise opium (seers)</th>
<th>Hill opium (seers)</th>
<th>Total (seers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>36,278</td>
<td>2,845</td>
<td>39,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>37,638</td>
<td>2,918</td>
<td>39,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>37,048</td>
<td>2,279</td>
<td>39,327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The following table gave the grounds for suspicion regarding the consumption in Indian State as compared with the British District bordering on such states.

Table 3.20 District or State wise consumption of opium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District or State</th>
<th>Percentage of Sikh to the total population.</th>
<th>Consumption per 10,000 of population in 1928-29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ludhiana</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amritsar</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferozepore</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jullundur</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyallpur</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lahore</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>49.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patiala</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>78.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nabha</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>68.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jind</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faridkot</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>107.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malerkotla</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>149.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapurthala</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: “Opium smuggling in the Punjab”, Lahore, 1931, Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1931, para 9,”Consumption of all Kinds of opium in British District,” page 31

At that time, the States were allowed the following supplies.

Table 3.21 Detail of duty free chests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District or State</th>
<th>Duty free chests</th>
<th>Additional chests on payment of full duty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Patiala</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nabha</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jind</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Faridkot</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Malerkotla</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Kapurthala</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: “Opium smuggling in the Punjab”, Lahore, 1931, Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1931, para 9, page 31
The following statement showing the sale in seers of Excise and non-Excise opium in the Punjab during 1911-12 to 1930-31 was as under:

Table 3.22 Detail of sale of excise and non excise opium in Punjab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total quantity of opium sold in seers.</th>
<th>Price of issue of Excise opium per seer.</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excise opium</td>
<td>Hill opium</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-12</td>
<td>49302</td>
<td>10998</td>
<td>60300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912-13</td>
<td>56111</td>
<td>8950</td>
<td>65061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-14</td>
<td>54748</td>
<td>10618</td>
<td>65366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>55.84</td>
<td>7787</td>
<td>62821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915-16</td>
<td>53018</td>
<td>8457</td>
<td>61525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-17</td>
<td>51067</td>
<td>10147</td>
<td>61154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-18</td>
<td>50445</td>
<td>7315</td>
<td>57760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918-19</td>
<td>48068</td>
<td>5364</td>
<td>53372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-20</td>
<td>44683</td>
<td>6675</td>
<td>51358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-21</td>
<td>37225</td>
<td>11621</td>
<td>48846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>23823</td>
<td>13902</td>
<td>37795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>25283</td>
<td>9514</td>
<td>34795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>28234</td>
<td>5143</td>
<td>33377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>29872</td>
<td>3810</td>
<td>33682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>34929</td>
<td>2727</td>
<td>37656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>36278</td>
<td>2845</td>
<td>39123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>37639</td>
<td>2918</td>
<td>40556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>37048</td>
<td>2279</td>
<td>39327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
<td>36922</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>38943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-31</td>
<td>34889</td>
<td>1763</td>
<td>36652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.11.3 Repetition of History in respect of drug use and illegal trade in Punjab

Punjab Deputy Chief Minister and SAD President, Sh. Sukhbir Singh Badal explanation as to why drug trafficking had become a political issue in Punjab was that "Drug addiction as a problem exist the world over. It was there in the United States. The level of gravity o this menace being faced by Haryana and Rajasthan is the same as is witnessed by Punjab .You could find vends selling poppy husk and opium in Rajasthan."137

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136 "Opium Smuggling in the Punjab," Lahore(1931), Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing Punjab,1931,p. 38
137 Amaninder Pal Sharma/Patiala, "Sukhbir blames Capt, Centre for drug menace in Punjab", The Times of India, Chandigarh, April, 19, 2014, p.2

164
Sitting MP from Faridkot Paramjit Kaur Gulshan told people on Friday (April 18, 2014) that she wanted to open licensed poppy husk vends in Punjab. She further explained, she was not in favour of these vends, but the senior citizens in the villages have got addicted to poppy husk for the last 50 to 60 years. They would get weak and die if they don’t get it. They were only demanding that it should be legalized like in Rajasthan. They cannot be weaned off the addiction. She further told that drug doesn’t hurt the health of a person like that white powder (heroin) or those drugs which come from the foreign countries.

Shakeel Ahmed, Senior Congress leader and in charge of Punjab Affairs, on April 18, 2014 charged the Badal led Government of “turning the sensitive border state into a river of drugs”. “This is affecting the very future of the youth and the region,” He also said that the smuggling was being patronized by the Akali Dal Ministers following revelations made by arrested drug lord Jagdish Bhola last November (2013). Bhola has been arrested in the Rs.6000 crore synthetic drug racket. It was in 2009 that the state government had accepted before the high court that 70% of the state’s youth were addicted to drugs.

3.11.4 A Brief History of trade and smuggling of Hill opium in earlier Himachal Pradesh to Patiala

The Phulkian states were by far the big purchasers of hill opium, which appeared to be employed there in the manufacture of chandu. The zamindars sold their opium to traders who visit the villages round about with passes from out three circles. These men remove the opium to their headquarters and there dispose of it to the big men who export to the plains. The headquarters of the trade was Kot Khai. Kotgarh was hopelessly in a corner, and from the opium point of view, off the main route. Further by disallowing the issue of any pass from Kotgarh except to Simla, had imposed a real hardship on the dealers. What they want in practice was to collect the opium in one place, and thence

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138 Rohan Dua /Jaitu (Faridkot), “Akali MP’s shocker: Have poppy husk vends, Sukhbir blames Capt, Centre for drug menace in Punjab,” The Times of India, Chandigarh, Saturday, April 19, 2014, p.2

139 Times News Network, Jaitu (Faridkot), “Bhukki doesn’t hurt a person’s health: MP,” The Times of India, Chandigarh, Saturday, April 19, 2014, p.6

140 ibid.

141 ibid

142 “Opium Smuggling in the Punjab,” Lahore (1931), Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1931, page 17

143 ibid

165
dispose it off direct to the plains.\textsuperscript{144} We insist on an open market at Kot Khai and Simla and a closed market at Kotgarh whence the opium had to be exported within a certain limited time to Simla.\textsuperscript{145} It seemed never to have been anticipated that this arrangement of three centres would result in trebling the traders’ staff and accounts, if it was to be carried out into effect.\textsuperscript{146} Otherwise as the opium all come in at the same time a man must confine himself to one circle. The Phulkian States’ Agent got the rest.

The traders as a matter of fact had got round it in the following way\textsuperscript{147}. A man wanted to purchase, let us say, from Kaneti Shadoch. He takes out an import pass from Kot Khai for Kaneti. The opium which he purchased actually came from Shadoch, but the Sub Inspector had no possible means of checking the statement that the opium came from Kaneti. The only Kotgarh circle opium that went to Kotgarh had come from Bashahr, where there was a European Manger and comparative strictness in the up keep of Khasra Girdawari and similar papers.\textsuperscript{148} What the traders want was the right to import from all the States into Kot Khai, and the abolition of the Kotgarh centre.\textsuperscript{149} The Three centres were established at Kot Khai, Simla and Kotgarh for payment of duty.

With regard to smuggling, 118 maunds had been exported from the State.\textsuperscript{150} Of this probably 100 maunds came from the Kotkhai circle, 18 maunds, allowing for the deception of the traders, from Kotgarh. No opium had been exported from the Simla circle through British territory.\textsuperscript{151} The position was then this: all opium grown in the southern and western states was exported direct to Patiala territory and never paid duty. But this was no offence, though it was obvious that the Phulkian States did not require all this opium for their own use, and this it was re-smuggled.\textsuperscript{152} With regard to the amount of opium which was thus exported direct we had no means of framing an accurate produce estimate. It was, however remarked that a number of states had informed on record officially that they grew little or no opium. This had seen to be quite untrue. The

\textsuperscript{144} ibid
\textsuperscript{145} ibid
\textsuperscript{146} ibid
\textsuperscript{147} ibid
\textsuperscript{148} ibid
\textsuperscript{149} ibid
\textsuperscript{150} ibid., p. 18
\textsuperscript{151} ibid
\textsuperscript{152} ibid
poppy was entered in Khasra girdawaris either as Khali or jau or some other crop. A certain amount of this went on in the more remote Bharoli village, when the Patwaris took the whole girdawaris. These false entries show that the States had a tender conscience in the matter and know that they were encouraging smuggling, though technically they had no cause for alarm. With regard to the amount of opium which thus went direct into the Phulkian States, it was impossible to form an estimate. Probably, however, Keonthal, Bhajji, and Kumharsain grew between them as much as the rest of the hills put together. Bhajji and Kumharsain opium was this year all sent to Patiala territory through Bhagal, by the Bhajji dealers. The quantity and final destination of it was alike unknown though it was certain that not a chittaks had paid duty. Bhaghal was also a big producer, and Bhagal grew more than it admits, and this was true of all the southern States. Probably the amount exported direct to Patiala was not less than five times nor more than ten times the quantities exported through British territory. The reason of this was obvious. The danger was that now that the duty had been raised and smuggling was peculiarly attractive, the mischief might increase to an alarming extent.

The books of the whole sale vendors of Kot Khai showed that they had the following stock of opium in hand:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Maunds</th>
<th>Seers</th>
<th>Chittaks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man Dass</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neki Ram</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sita Ram</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bija Ram</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: The total figures of 17, 18 & 0 were taken as printed at source.
The stock in the hands of the wholesale vendors was excessive as compared with the demand. Stocks were not weighed at the time of each inspection and the drayage was ascertained at the end of the year.

3.11.5 Cultivation and trading of desi cannabis in Punjab

A record with state’s excise and taxation department in Punjab had revealed that the government has been cultivating and selling desi cannabis, called bhang, for 30 years to other states.\(^{157}\)

Bhang was an intoxicating preparation made from the leaves and flowers of marijuana plant, known as “sukha” in Punjab. Every year, the state government holds auction of its lone cannabis vend in Hoshiarpur. The vend, owned by one Wadia group, dispatched 45 trucks of this narcotic drug to Rajasthan and Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh last year i.e. 2013. It sold a total of 1.8 L kg cannabis.\(^{158}\)

According to revenue records, in possession of TOI, the Akali Dal government earned revenue of Rs.8.80 lakh in 2013-14 from the sale of cannabis,” A VAT of 14.30% is charged on the wholesale of cannabis in Punjab, said a senior excise taxation official.\(^{159}\)

3.11.6 Indo -China Trade, 2011-2013
Table 3.24 Detail of Indo-China Trade, 2011-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textile Carpet</td>
<td>2,23,000</td>
<td>6992550</td>
<td>9353200</td>
<td>Wool</td>
<td>163050</td>
<td>84900</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Chili</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td>11310</td>
<td>1001610</td>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>514690</td>
<td>3606000</td>
<td>2473500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaggery(Gur)</td>
<td>39600</td>
<td>130930</td>
<td>408750</td>
<td>Carpet</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1208000</td>
<td>295600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veg. Oil</td>
<td>114000</td>
<td>192700</td>
<td>38175</td>
<td>Shoes &amp; Ready Made Garments</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1769530</td>
<td>352700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasham</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>366800</td>
<td>4229400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HP State CID, CE, Branch Data.

The trade has again started. The people go to west Tibet via Shivkilla for trade purpose from Kinnaur. There is also a Police trade Check post at Namgia. There is also a Trade Officer, Indo China Border Trade stationed at Chhupan Distt. Kinnaur HP.

\(^{157}\) Rohan Dua, Chandigarh, “Punjab earned Rs.8.8 L from cannabis sale last fiscal,” The Times of India, Chandigarh, Tuesday, May 13\(^{th}\),2014,p.2
\(^{158}\) ibid
\(^{159}\) ibid
3.12 SMUGGLING AND MARKET FOR CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM AND CHARAS

3.12.1 Smuggling of Opium from Himachal

In Punjab Patiala, Surmur (present Sirmaur) and Samma Mandi in Pepsu and Ludhiana, Ambala, Julundhur, Simla and Amritsar in Punjab were the places from where opium was suspected to have been smuggled out of India.\(^{160}\) Himachal supplies opium to smugglers from Rajgarh, Rainka (Present Renuka), Rampur, Rahru (Present Rohroo) and Kathkai (Present Kotkhai).\(^{161}\) Of all these smuggling centres Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were the most important for the obvious reasons that this tract was rich in opium and not only centrally situated in India, but also very well connected both by rail and road to all the important states and cities in India where opium was demanded by addicts at any cost.\(^{162}\)

3.12.2 Some Historical Background Facts of opium smuggling

Opium was smuggled from India to Burma in such a big way during 1896-1900 that Govt. of Bombay had to file a complaint saying that it was impossible to check the contraband trade in opium from the Central India and Rajputana states and it was advocated that the agents to the Governor General concerned should organize a small department to work under their authority, and in communication with the various Police Departments, with a view to suppression of the trade in the Bombay districts and in other Provinces.\(^{163}\)

The principal indictment of smuggling in the Punjab was contained in the report of 6\(^{th}\) May 1910 of Messers Comber and Stephens, who were deputed to enquire into the smuggling of opium from India to Burma, on the motion of the Governments of Burma and Eastern Bengal and Assam. This had been estimated previously by Mr. Comber, Chief Superintendent Excise, Burma, to amount to 450 maunds, annually. But as a result of the enquiry it was put at considerably more than this figure. The smuggling centres existing in the Punjab were reported by them to have been at Delhi, Amritsar, Gujranwala and Patiala.

\(^{161}\) Ibid
\(^{162}\) Ibid., p.42
\(^{163}\) Secretary, Government of India (Finance), addressed letter No. 1333.C.S.B. dated 9\(^{th}\) October 1897, File No. 561/274A.
A consignment of 4½ maunds of contraband Excise opium for Burma, dispatched from Amritsar, was detected at Howrah in 1909. It was discovered that Joli Ram, etc. licensed vendors of Amritsar, were retailing opium issued to them at Rs.17 to smugglers at Rs.20 who were dispatching it from small way side stations. Telegraphic money orders to the amount of Rs.2, 400 were also traced to have been sent to these Amritsar vendors by Calcutta purchasers.

In Lahore a Peshawari was caught with 13 seers of Excise opium on him, and it was found that several Rangoon Peshawaris were in the habit of collecting shop opium at Lahore. The general enquiries made by Messers. Comber ad Stephens showed that licence-holders were permitted to retail Afghan, Simla and other Hill opium, and those smugglers were extending their operations to all accessible districts, throughout the Punjab.

In Patiala they reported that Ram Parshad, opium contractor (now deceased) of this State, which had 404 shops, was retailing opium (for which he had paid the State Rs 17 per seer) to smugglers at Rs.23 per seer. At this time Government allowed the Darbar 90 chests, or 5400 seers at Rs.8-8-0 per seer and this allowance was raised in 1915 to 140 chests at Rs.11.

Messers Comber and Stephens also found that Ram Parshad was in league with Budhan Khan and Sher Ali, partners of a notorious smuggling gang at Delhi, who were the principal agents in smuggling contraband to Calcutta. Sher Ali was at that time on bail having then been arrested with 30 seers of opium in his possession; and information during the enquiry, connected at Delhi, showed that these agents procured their supplies partly from Punjab licensed shops, and partly from Ram Parshad of Patiala.

At Lahore Messers Comber and Stephens got into touch with other local agents of Ram Parshad's who were selling opium at Rs.23 per seer, and a visit to Patiala showed that a syndicate consisting of Ram Parshad and three other Patiala men had acquired the opium contract which they had purchased for a term of three years. The license fees amounted to Rs.1, 13,100 per annum, and the conditions allowed them to open retail shops anywhere in the State on notification to the State Excise Commissioner. The syndicate was stated to be obtaining the bulk of its opium from the Hill States and Afghanistan.
It was also ascertained that Ram Parshad had purchased shops at Ludhiana, Raiwind, Philibhit and Delhi, and he was also reported to be the real owner of other shops in the Punjab which he had purchased in other names. It was noted that the Thaggi and Dakaiti records of 1890 report Ram Parshad to be "a bold and successful smuggler of illicit opium from Central India into the Punjab".

The following suggestions were put forward in this report:

1. It was noted that the licensees of Government shops were the principal smugglers and that they could obtain with facility unlimited supplies of Excise opium from Government treasuries for smuggling purposes. It was, therefore, recommended that licensees should be persons of integrity and that issues should be omitted to ascertain legitimate sales, while a maximum limit should be placed upon auction prices.

2. Also that the number of opium shops should be reduced (as example Rangoon was quoted with a population of 300,000 and 4 licensed shops and a consumption of 200 seers daily). It was urged that the maximum issues to shops in cities and towns should be based on the average yearly consumptions for 10 years prior to 1906-07, before organized smuggling to Burma assumed alarming proportions, the amount allowed to each district being distributed to shops pro rata.

3. That the boiling of opium should be entirely prohibited.

4. Those judicial punishments should be more exemplary.

3.12.3 Opium Trafficking and use in Burma

The circumstances in which opium was attracted to Burma from Upper India are doubtless known to Government. Under the Burma Opium Rule 20, a register was maintained in each district in Lower Burma of Burman residents in the district who had been registered under the Opium Rule 1893 as consumers of opium. The rule directed that no new name shall be added to the register except in the case of removal from one district to another. Rule 64(6) (a) and (b) showed that opium can only be sold to a Burman whose name appears in the register. The effect of rule 20 read with rule 64 was that the number of Burmans who can buy opium from a licensed opium shop had been decreasing and the number of those who depend on smugglers for their supply of opium.

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\[164\] Messrs. Comber and Stephens Report, 6th May, 1910

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had been increasing because a Burman, who had contracted the opium habit after the introduction of these rules was debarred from getting opium from a licensed shop. The consumption of licit opium had been steadily decreasing in Burma in past years as would be observed from the following figures:

Table 3.25  Detail of consumption of licit opium in Burma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total consumption of opium in seers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1909-10</td>
<td>61413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-11</td>
<td>55777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-12</td>
<td>53120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912-13</td>
<td>47696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-14</td>
<td>46251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>43391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915-16</td>
<td>43317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-17</td>
<td>48539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-18</td>
<td>47675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918-19</td>
<td>47350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-20</td>
<td>44838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-21</td>
<td>40840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>34669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>32918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>30874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>29522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>28469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>25059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>24888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>25261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


It will be observed that the consumption in 1928-29 was less by 36,152 (03 maunds) than the consumption of 1909-10. The number of Burmans who depend wholly or partly on smuggled opium to satisfy their appetites was many time larger than the number of Burmans who could get opium from licensed shops. As long as these rules were in force smuggling must go on. Of this fact the Excise Reports of Burma give abundant evidence. On page 8 of the Excise Report of Burma for 1927-28, it was
estimated that out of 4,690 seers of contraband opium captured during the year 990 seers was Indian opium and 3,700 seers was foreign opium (Chinese Shan, etc.)

3.12.4 Contraband detected and traced to the Punjab and its dependencies

That a considerable amount of Excise opium was smuggled to Calcutta from the Punjab Native States and districts was confirmed by the recent detections in Bengal and the United Provinces, which have been compiled from the Excise Bureau's reports in the Punjab, United Provinces and Bengal and show the seizures of contraband opium traced to the Punjab during the past 3½ years. These amount to 58 cases in which 19½ maunds of contraband were involved, half of which was traced to the States, who were directly responsible for 14 out of the total number of cases.

The most important detection was that of parcels containing 3 maunds of opium at Belur near Calcutta on the 26th January, 1916, which opium had been booked from Patiala and Maler Kotla. Unfortunately this contraband consignment was stolen from the station godown where it had been placed for safe custody, and was removed by persons who used a motor car for this purpose. The opium was estimated as being worth Rs.12,000 and the methods used in removing it distinctly show it to had been of great value.

Another important case was the detection of 2 maunds 6 seers of Excise opium at Aligarh in the United Provinces in possession of six Rampuri Muhammadans on the 19th April, 1915. This was of sufficient importance to call for mention in a précis of the report by Inspector Lala Kanhya Lal of the Punjab Excise Department who was deputed to assist the United Provinces Police.

It was reported that Hem Raj, son of Anant Ram, opium contractor of Bhatinda, Barnala and Mansa in Patiala, was an agent of the late Ram Parsad (of Jagraon, Ludhiana), who was formerly contractor of Ferozepore, Ludhiana and Lahore, from which districts he was ejected owing to his connection with smugglers (vide paragraph 35, Excise Report for 1910-11). This Ram Parshad was the pioneer of smuggling in the Punjab and his previous record showed that he transferred the scene of his operations from Ujjain in Malwa, Central India, to Patiala when the importation of Malwa opium was prohibited.

This evidence of the prevalence of smuggling confirmed the view expressed by the Financial Commissioner in 1910-11 of which the following were quotations:-

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"The number of directions in which opium smuggling was not only possible but extremely profitable, and the wealth and position of the persons interested in the illicit traffic constitute, perhaps, the most serious difficulty with which the preventive staffs had to contend. The smuggling of Excise opium from the Punjab into Bengal and Burma undoubtedly continues facilitated of course during the year under report by the permission to boil opium before sale. It was difficult to say in what district the traffic did not exist, for the gangs of smugglers were well organized and their operations extended throughout the Province.

3.12.5 North and South India Opium Smuggling Connection

It was not the case that there were not stringent punishments provisions in earlier Acts in India. In one case as reported in Indian Police Journal Vol.VI No.3 January, 1960 that in one case of opium smuggling caught on 16th June, 1953 from the car and possession of Samadhanam, Velayudhan and Karunanidhi and Birender Singh, all henchmen of Mani, the main smuggler by Madras Police. It was informed to police that one Hudson car given for repairs by one R.S Mani had a secret chamber in it made for transporting and smuggling opium from one place to another. They operated from North India to South and then further to Ceylon for this purpose.

More interestingly this car was registered in the name of one Deputy Secretary to the Government of Madras. It was known later that Mani himself had signed the order for buying the chassis from M/s T.V.S & Sons, Madras. He had furnished M/S Simpson & Co., Madras, with plans to construct a secret chamber in it. The officer in whose name the vehicle had been registered was found to be a relative of Samadhanam, the associates of Mr. Mani the main smuggler. The police had found in this chamber 600 lbs of opium valued at Rs. 3 lac. The interception of his telegraphic correspondence disclosed nothing further than casual and what appeared to be intimate and personal references such as "Meet Raju tonight." "Kamla unwell; hence writing."

During the trial Mani was defended by a team of brilliant lawyers. But he and his associated were held guilty and sentenced to undergo nine month's RI and to pay a fine of Rs.1000/- each under sections (a), (b) & (C) of Opium Act. The sentences were to run

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concurrently. The opium and the motor vehicles were confiscated to the Government. This was important that even in 1953, laws were stringent but cases of smuggling and drug trafficking were also happening in such a sophisticated and clever way which a man of normal brilliance cannot even think of.

In the second case also again reported in Indian Police Journal Vol.VII, No.1, July 1960 that a study of the illicit opium market by the Madras police disclosed that there was a flow of dope from the producing areas in the North India to the South through Hyderabad and Bangalore on its way to Karaikal, Ceylon and countries in the Fast East. On 24th June, 1958 Taha, Ansar and Mamman were found travelling to Gumdipoondi. The three occupants of the car Abdul Rasheed Khan, driver, Aduvayya and Chanda Khan, brother of Mamman were taken by surprise. The case was closely examined by the police. In its rear, they detected a secret chamber from which a strong acrid smell emanated. In contained 215 cakes of opium wrapped in cello phone and brown paper. This was seized and it weighed 205 seers and $64\frac{1}{2}$ tolas. In the illicit market it was worth about Rs.2 lakhs. Charge sheet was laid under Section 120-B and other sections of Opium Act against 15 accused. Seventy two witnesses were examined for the prosecution, most of them from Northern India. Thirteen accused, out of the 15, who faced the trial were convicted and sentenced to one year’s RI in this case. The conviction was confirmed by the Sessions Court, Chingleput. The two cars, the money and the opium were confiscated to the Government.

3.12.6 Cultivators in league with smugglers

The wholesale vendors purchased opium from the cultivators at Rs.8 to Rs.12 per seer. The smugglers paid Rs.25 to Rs.26 per see to cultivators. Some of the cultivators of Kot Khai sold opium to smugglers at enhanced rates before weighment by the Patwari, after which they cannot sell to any one except wholesale dealers who do not pay more than Rs.8 to Rs.12 per seer. Thus there were very strong reasons to suspect that opium was sold buy cultivators to smugglers at the time of harvest, and that the full produce is

166 ibid
168 ibid
169 ibid
170 ibid
171 “Opium smuggling in the Punjab,” Lahore (1931), Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1931, page 60
172 ibid
not brought to account.\textsuperscript{173} The inspection of crop and weighment of opium at the earliest opportunity is essential. Work in the district of Simla was very light and it would be a distinct advantage if one of the two excise officials located in Simla were to stay at Kotkhai for two months during the harvesting period.

### 3.12.7 Stock of Hill States opium entirely in the hands of the smugglers

Opium was sold to smugglers in the Simla Hill States at about Rs.25 to Rs. 26 per seer.\textsuperscript{174} The wholesale vendors of Kot Khai were prepared to sell opium, which was the produce of Kot Khai, at about Rs. 15 or Rs.16/- per seer in Kot Khai. The licensees in the plains purchased Kot Khai opium.\textsuperscript{175} Almost all the opium produced in the Simla Hill States was sold to smugglers. Since October 12\textsuperscript{th}, 1926 no import pass had been issued for the import of opium from the Hill States. If the same conditions prevailed, there was no likelihood that any quantity of opium would be imported from any of the States.\textsuperscript{176} During the last 5 years the following quantities were imported from the under mentioned States:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bashahr</th>
<th>Jubbal</th>
<th>Keonthal</th>
<th>Khaneti</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### 3.12.8 Arrest of Smugglers in State Territory

The arrest of smugglers in State territory was not feasible. It was suspected that the licensees of the following States, who were in league with smugglers, import opium through State territory, under he State import passes, in the following quantities during the course of the year in 1929.

\textsuperscript{173} ibid
\textsuperscript{174} ibid., p.61
\textsuperscript{175} ibid
\textsuperscript{176} ibid
Table 3.27  Detail of opium import in 1929

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of State</th>
<th>Maunds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalagarh</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghal</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghat</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailog</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuthar</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunihar</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bija</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>388</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Very important depots for the storage of smuggled opium had been established in the above States, to which places the contraband was conveyed under import passes of the State and from where the smugglers carried to the Punjab and Punjab states. A large quantity of smuggled opium was conveyed to the States of Patiala and Nabha without touching British territory. Most of the smugglers belonged to Balsan, Kumharsain, Jubbal and Sirmur.

3.12.9 Profits of Smugglers

The total consumption of opium in the Hill States did not exceed 8 maunds and 12 seers. It was evident that a regular contraband traffic in opium was established and about 356 maunds of opium was smuggled annually from the Simla Hill States. The smugglers sold opium at Rs.30 to Rs.35 per seer and earned a profit of about Rs.10 per seer i.e., Rs.400 per maund. The total profits of the smugglers on 356 maunds of opium amount to Rs.1,42,400/-. The illicit price in opium during 1957 ranged from Rs.400/- to Rs.1000/- per seer in whole sale and from Rs.400/- to Rs.1280/- in retail. This would give an idea about

177 ibid
178 ibid
179 ibid
180 ibid
181 ibid
182 The Indian Police Journal Vol. V No.3, January, 1959, p.43
the enormous profits, which the smugglers were making. They generally purchased opium from the cultivators at a rate between Rs.60/- to Rs.100/- per seer, and sold it at a rate between Rs.400/- to Rs.1000/- per seer.\(^{183}\)

3.12.10 Defective Administration in the Hill States

In British territory the elaborate system of crop inspection made the illicit cultivation of a conspicuous crop such as poppy a virtual impossibility. Areas, at all events, are accurately recorded, though the record of outturn still leaves very much to be desired. But the Hill States (even those such as Bashahr, Jubbal and Sirmur which enjoyed a vigorous and capable administration) had not the means of ascertaining the areas under poppy except in a very general way; and their rulers, even with the best will in the world to cooperate, were not in a position to check illicit practices, in the profits of which their own officials were not infrequent participators\(^{184}\).

3.12.11 Impossibility of preventing smuggling from Hill States

No army of preventive guards, however strong, could catch every hill path: and no pay which could be given would prevent the smugglers from outbidding the Government and enlisting connivance\(^{185}\).

Hence one of the suggestions were given was opening up of road communications into the Simla and Punjab Hill States. The cost would be heavy, but the administrations concerned must be losing about Rs.10 lakhs a year in Excise revenue from the smuggling of Hill opium\(^{186}\).

3.12.12 Measures to prevent smuggling from Hill states to other Parts of India.

3.12.12.1 Suspected illicit import of hill opium

There was an excess of production of hill opium over licit consumption by 319 maunds.\(^{187}\) Large stocks of opium were kept in the Hill States which were smuggled into British Territory and the Indian States in the Plains. Since 12\(^{th}\) October, 1926, no import

\(^{183}\) ibid


\(^{185}\) "Opium smuggling in the Punjab," a note written by Sh. Narsingh Dass, Excise Assistant to the Financial Commissioners, Punjab, dated the November 28\(^{th}\), 1931, Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1931, p.34

\(^{186}\) ibid., p.37

\(^{187}\) Ibid., para, 4, p.29

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pass had been issued in Simla District, for the licit import of opium from any of the Hill states.\(^{188}\)

The total imports of such opium during the last five years had stood as follows\(^{189}:\)

Table 3.28 Detail of import of opium, 1924-25 to 1928-29

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Maunds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-26</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-28</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-29</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To check the smuggling of Hill opium\(^{190}\) and to provide a licit market for it, the sale of “Hill” and other kinds of non excise opium was from 1\(^{st}\) April 1921 confined to the Jullundur Division and the sale of Excise opium was stopped in that division while in the rest of the Province the sale of Excise opium only was allowed\(^{191}.\) This experiment led to the smuggling of opium on a very large scale from the adjoining Indian States. From November 1922, therefore, the sale of Excise (as well as no-excise) opium was again allowed in the Jullundur Division and from 1\(^{st}\) April 1923 the sale of non excise opium (as well as excise) opium was again allowed in the Lahore Division. Since April 1\(^{st}\) 1931, Hill opium had been excluded from Gurdaspur, Sialkot, Gujranwala and Sheikhupura districts\(^{192}.)\)

The most obvious remedy was the opening up of road communication into the Simla and Punjab Hill States. The cost would be heavy, but the administrations concerned must be losing about Rs. 10 lakhs a year in Excise revenue from the smuggling of Hill opium\(^{193}.\)

Influence might be exerted upon the Hill chiefs by the offer of duty free supplies of Excise opium, which was already supplied, up to certain maximum limits, duty free to the Phulkian States. Arrangements were made for the refund to the States of

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\(^{188}\) ibid
\(^{189}\) ibid
\(^{190}\) "Opium smuggling in the Punjab", Lahore, 1931,Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab,1931,para 27, page 37
\(^{191}\) ibid.,p.36
\(^{192}\) ibid
\(^{193}\) ibid.,p.37
consumption of the major portion of the duty paid on charas consumed in those States, up to certain maximum limits on the condition of co-operation in Excise policy. This might be used to persuade the more important States to agree to restrictions.

As was seen from the statistics given on page 63, there were only three hill chiefs whose territories very large quantities of opium were grown and only three others who had some importance in this matter. Negotiations could therefore be restricted to three or at most six states. The states were Bashahr, Jubbal, Kotkhai and Kumarsain.

3.12.13 Summary of the Situation

From the Imperial point of view the chief danger was that opium can be smuggled from the Punjab to Calcutta because Excise opium was available in the Punjab and still more in the Punjab States. From the Provincial point of view the main difficulty was that the high duty levied in Assam and Burma makes it profitable to smuggle excise and Malwa opium prepared so as to resemble Excise opium from the Punjab to Calcutta. This opium, like the charas smuggled from Peshawar eastwards, was paid for by imports of cocaine. The need for finding substitutes for the Excise opium to be sent eastwards made it profitable to smuggle Hill and Malwa opium into Punjab and still more into the Punjab States in the plains. The production of Malwa opium in Rajputana was under practically no control and in the remoter Hill States poppy was the only crop which can be sold for money, to pay land revenue to the State.

3.12.14 Possible Remedies

The issue price of Excise opium in the Punjab was raised to Rs. 70 per seer from April 1st 1923. The maximum retail rate has been fixed at Rs. 1-4-0 per tola, which equals Rs. 100 per seer, from April 1st 1925. Any further increase would entail the risk of the substitution for opium of country spirit or of charas, cocaine and other harmful drugs. For 1931-32 the cost of production of Excise opium had been fixed at Rs/ 18-9-0 and the duty was therefore Rs. 51-7-0. The transport and import duty of Hill opium might be raised to the same figure. No other increase appeared to be possible.

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194 ibid
195 ibid
196 ibid., p.34
197 ibid
198 ibid
199 ibid
200 ibid
201 ibid
3.12.14.1 Suggested purchase of all opium by Government

The other possible remedy was for Government to buy up all opium and converted it into Excise opium. This device had the following inherent defects in it:

(a) In 1916 the price paid by wholesale vendors in the Simla Hill States varied from Rs.7 to Rs.11-8-0 per seer. Government could not buy opium so cheap as it had to employ contractors to make its purchases.

(b) A certain amount of compensation would have to be paid to the chiefs for the loss of their opium revenue which could only be determined arbitrarily.

(c) Owing to the weakness of the administration of the States it would be nearly impossible to make sure that the whole produce had been secured.

(d) This plan postulates a considerable degree of administrative intervention in the Hill States in which there were certain political disadvantages.

The whole question was examined; but it was considered impracticable to convert Hill opium into Excise opium. The opium produced in these areas was not of good quality and owing to adulteration with leaves, it was difficult to convert it into opium of the quality of Excise opium. Hill opium has very low morphine content.

3.12.14.2 Conversion of Hill opium into cakes

In order to discover licit means of disposal of Hill opium, an experiment was made during the year 1925-26 to popularize Hill opium by caking it at the Ghazipur factory. Fifteen seers of Hill opium was sent to Ghazipur for conversion into cakes. 14 cakes were supplied to Lahore, out of which 10 were sold with great difficulty, as the consumers did not like its taste. Hence this proposal was also dropped.

3.12.14.3 Leases of Excise arrangements of Hill States

Another device which suggested itself was to take on lease the Excise arrangements of the Hill States on the lines of Pataudi, Dujana and Kalsia but the scheme was abandoned on account of political considerations. Efforts were made to induce the Darbars of the Simla Hill States to come into a line with the British Districts in regard to their policy of regulation of the trade in Hill opium and it was to be hoped that these would be successful; as it was quite impossible in view of the broken character

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202 ibid p.35
203 ibid
204 ibid
205 ibid
206 ibid
of the country and of the States to control the smuggling unless a uniform policy was in
force on both sides of the borders. The rulers of the Simla Hill States were opposed to
any system of control or interference.

3.12.14.4 Palliatives for immediate adoption

In the meanwhile and apart from radical remedies, which demand lengthy
investigation, there were certain measures, which can be taken at once. One of these (a
very trifling one) was the prohibition of the cultivation of poppy in those “kothis” of
Kullu, where it had not been cultivated hitherto. Steps had been taken in this
direction. At present the cultivation of poppy was prohibited in 15 kothis in the Kulu sub
division. It was also laid down that a license for the cultivation of Poppy should not be
given for an area of less than five biswas and that no person should cultivate poppy in the
sub division in any area larger in extent than the maximum area which either he or the
Persons who preceded him in the cultivation of his holding cultivated with poppy in any
one of the three years 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17.

3.12.14.5 Concentration of particular kinds of opium for consumption in particular
areas

Another desirable measure was the concentration of the consumption of
particular kinds of opium in particular districts and particular States. The process of
excluding Hill opium from the plains states began in 1916-17. The figures below
showed the quantity of Hill and Afghan opium exported to the Punjab States.

| Table 3.29 Detail of Hill and Afghan opium exported to Punjab States |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                  | 1914-15 (Seers) | 1915-16 (Seers) | 1916-17 (Seers) | 1917-18 (seers) |
| Patiala           | 3,030            | 6,493            | 8,056            | 6,582            |
| Nabha             | 12,209           | 1,631            | 2,222            | 1,937            |
| Jind              | 180              | -                | -                | -                |
| Faridkot          | 974              | 507              | 534              | 1,567            |
| Kapurthala        | 215              | 173              | 59               | -                |
| Chamba            | 21               | -                | -                | -                |
| Others            | 80               | 95               | -                | 290              |
| Total             | 18,411           | 8,899            | 10,991           | 10,376           |

207 ibid
208 ibid
209 ibid
210 ibid
211 ibid
212 ibid.,p.36
Steps were further taken to limit the supply of hill opium to certain districts of the Punjab. Prior to 1917-18 Hill opium was allowed to be sold throughout the Punjab. With effect from 1st April, 1917 its sale was prohibited in the districts of the Ambala and Multan Divisions.\(^{213}\)

To check the smuggling of Hill opium and to provide a licit market for it, the sale of “Hill” and other kinds of non excise opium was from 1st April 1921 confined to the Jullundur Division and the sale of Excise opium was stopped in that division while in the rest of the Province the sale of Excise opium only was allowed.\(^{214}\)

This experiment led to the smuggling of opium on a very large scale from the adjoining Indian States. From November 1922, therefore, the sale of Excise (as well as no-excise) opium was again allowed in the Jullundur Division and from 1st April 1923 the sale of non excise opium (as well as excise) opium was again allowed in the Lahore Division. Since April 1st 1931, Hill opium had been excluded from Gurdaspur, Sialkot, Gujranwala and Sheikhupura districts.\(^{215}\)

### 3.12.14.6 Extra profit on Excise opium should not be allowed to States as a matter of course, but in return for a quid pro quo

It had not hitherto been the practice when raising the issue price of Excise opium to make the extra profit which is thereby secured to the States which receive allotments at the factory price, a ground for asking them to make changes in their Excise policy.\(^{216}\) All that has been done was to require them to raise their issue price to the figures adopted in British territory: but this they would probably be will in any circumstances to do because it was so obviously profitable to the Darbars to do so.\(^{217}\) Sir John Maynard expressed this view by saying that it should no longer be taken for granted when a higher issue price is adopted in adjoining British territory, that an unchanged factory price should be charged to the States which received allotments at reduced rates, and that the benefit of any changes which secure additional profit to the Darbars should only be conceded to them as of grace or in return for some quid pro quo in their Excise duty.\(^{218}\)

\(^{213}\) ibid
\(^{214}\) ibid
\(^{215}\) ibid
\(^{216}\) ibid
\(^{217}\) ibid
\(^{218}\) ibid., para 25, p.36
3.12.15 Suggestions

As we have seen that the cultivation and trafficking was done in a big way in earlier time. Even it remained a source of income to the people. In Kullu, it is still going on in a big way, it was proved from the evaluation of statistics. To find a solution to the problem and the reasons for it, two subsequent chapters along with the Chapter on evaluation of the drug trafficking problem are exclusively devoted to it.

In short, Government should come forward for some lucrative plans to stop it. A well coordinated and historic approach is also required.