CHAPTER - II

A PROFILE OF DELHI

Introduction:

Delhi, the most ancient and historic city which is built on the right bank of the Yamuna river has been the capital of mighty empires and kingdoms. As the capital of India, Delhi more than any other metropolis, has a prominent place in the history of India. Delhi has undergone many changes and successive developments since Independence. It was proclaimed as the capital of India on 12 December, 1911. It continued to be a Chief Commissioner’s province with no changes in its boundaries till 1941. In the year 1956 changes in the administrative set up of Delhi took place with Delhi Municipal Corporation Act coming into force on the birth of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Barring the Cantonment Board and New Delhi Municipal Corporation, other places merged together to form a large body enveloping within its fold not only the major urban area of Delhi but also other areas of Delhi as well. The area figures as per the Surveyor General of India for the Union Territory of Delhi is 1483 Sq.Kilometer at the time of 1981 Census (Map 1).

Though migration into Delhi is taking place mainly from the neighbouring states, contribution from other states too is a
Map 2
Delhi

[Diagram of Delhi]
prime factor leading to higher growth of population in the capital. A large number of people who have migrated to Delhi are engaged in the unorganised production and service activities generally termed as the "Informal Sector". Delhi has experienced a great spurt in the industrial activities during the past two decades. The distribution of working force in the urban Delhi from 1951 to 1981 is shown in Table 1.
### Table - II(i)

Distribution of Working Force in Urban Delhi 1951 to 1981

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Cultivators</td>
<td>3483</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>5178</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Agricultural labourers</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1242</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Livestock, forestry etc.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mining &amp; Quarrying etc.</td>
<td>1521</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>5446</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Manufacturing, processing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Household Industry</td>
<td>6632</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>12684</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Other than household</td>
<td>80639</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>155099</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Construction</td>
<td>44948</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>32540</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Trade and Commerce</td>
<td>117338</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>143809</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Transport and Communications</td>
<td>34455</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>47387</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Other services</td>
<td>224426</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>343430</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Workers**

| 514026 | 100.0 | 746815 | 100.0 | 1116937 | 100.0 | 1857545 | 100.00 |

**Population**

| 1437134 | -      | 2359408 | -      | 3647023 | -      | 5768200 | -      |

**Participation ratio**

| 27.96   | -      | 31.85   | -      | 30.62   | -      | 32.20   | -      |

It reveals a shift in the occupational structure of the inhabitants especially in "Other Services". While 43.7% of the population was engaged in "Other Services" in 1951, only 31.5% are in that sector in 1981. This brings out a decline in the administrative character of the work force during the past three decades.

The total population of Delhi as per the 1981 Census consists of 3,440,081 males and 2,780,325 females. Urban population alone accounts for 3,190,248 males and 2,577,952 females with a total of 5,768,200. Of the total population, 31.93 per cent are main workers. Among males and females 52.47 and 6.52 per cent are main workers respectively. Sex ratio (i.e. No. of females per 1000 males) has increased from 754 in 1951 to 808 in 1981. The literacy rate among males (68.40%) is higher than that of females (53.07%).

It has been observed that availability of water and power at cheaper rates in comparison with the rates in other parts of the region has attracted a large number of enterpreneurs to Delhi in the last two decades.

**Jurisdictional Changes:**
The Union Territory of Delhi witnessed no jurisdictional changes either in its boundary or in the administrative boundaries of its constituents during the decade 1971-81 except that 27 villages were treated as census towns.
Major Economic Characteristics:
The Union Territory of Delhi is spread over an area of 1483 sq. k.m. of land consisting of Delhi Municipal Corporation (urban), New Delhi Municipal Committee, Delhi Cantonment, 27 Census towns and 2 rural tehsils, viz. Delhi and Mehrauli. It is predominantly a non-agricultural territory. Only 0.02 per cent of the total population are engaged in agricultural operations and the rural population constitutes 7.27 per cent of the total population of the territory. The reduction in the percentage of rural population from 10.30 in 1971 to 7.27 in 1981 is an indicator of the rapid urbanisation process in Delhi. This also accounts for a gradual diminution of the land meant for cultivation. There is a very small area under forests - 1434 hectares in 1979-80. The greater portion of the reserved forest is located in New Ridge which lies opposite to Rashtrapati Bhawan in the back of Shri Laxmi Narayan Temple (Birla Mandir).

Minerals and Mining:
But for building and road making material and some china clay deposits, Delhi does not have other minerals of economic importance. The predominant building and road making material comprises sand, stone and bajri. The quartzite rock available on the ridge is very useful for the manufacture of stoneware and construction of buildings. Kaolin is used as a principal raw material for refractory industries and fine clay
for brick manufacture and chinaware. The china clay mines are located in the Southern parts of Delhi. Quarrying of sands is done at Okhla and Badarpur sand at Bhatti and Mehrauli stone is quarried at Pul Pehlad. Some quantities of china clay are also sent to other neighbouring states.

**Electricity and Power:**

The availability of power is an important factor for the development of any place. The expansion in the supply of power helps the establishments to change over from fuels like wood, coal, oil to electricity. Most of the industrial units are run on electricity. The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) is the only agency responsible for distributing and supplying electricity throughout the Union Territory. There has been a rapid increase in the consumption of electricity during the decade. The increase in domestic consumption during this period has been more than double. Shortfall of generation has been made up by purchases from other states.

**Land and Landuse Pattern:**

Because of urbanisation, Delhi Union Territory is divided into four physiographic divisions: (i) Khadar, (ii) Bangar, (iii) Dabar, (iv) Kohi.

The important crops grown in the Union Territory are Wheat, Gram, Bajra and Jowar. Some area is also under crops like
fruits and vegetables and fodder. The important sources of irrigation are wells, canals and tube wells.

**Animal Husbandry:**

Animal husbandry occupies a significant position in the economy of Delhi. Animals provide necessary help in agriculture, trade and commerce, transport and communication etc. Buffaloes which are the main source of milk supplied to the territory, are found in maximum number in Nangloi Block. As far as the urban portion is concerned, they are mostly in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Sheep also occupy an important position in the livestock of the Union Territory of Delhi. Besides, there are horses, ponies, pigs and camels also. Birds comprise fowls, ducks, cocks and hens.

**Fisheries:**

The fisheries area in Delhi comprises the river Yamuna and its flood channels and three canals i.e. portion of Agra canal, Hindon canal and Western Yamuna Canal. Besides, more than 300 village ponds, perennial and semi-perennial lakes and other stretches of water are a rich potential of inland fisheries. The main centre of fish trade is located at Jama Masjid.

**Industries:**

Delhi in older times gained its importance in arts, crafts and industries like jewellery, embroidery, silver vases and bowls
and tea sets, ornamental jewel boxes made of brass, silk and silk embroidery, ivory carvings, handloom textiles, copper and brass utensils. The following table provides the increase in the number of industrial units over the years, the investments therein, the value of production and the number of persons employed.

Table - II(ii)
Industrial progress in Delhi

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Industrial Units (in '000)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment (Rs. in crores)</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production (Rs. in crores)</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>1025</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1430</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment (in '000)</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Transport:
Delhi urban area extends from Mehrauli in the South to Model Town in the North and Nangloi in the West to U.P. Border in the East covering an area of 4477 Sq. Kms. with a radial distance of approximately 12 to 15 Kms. in all directions. At present the major traffic load is taken by road. The boat bridge is open to light traffic like private cars, motors, rickshaws, motorcycles, scooters, cycles etc. No heavy
vehicles are allowed on this bridge. The number of vehicles
registered in 1980 in Delhi were: cars and jeeps - 1,17,213,
motor cycles and scooters - 3,34,389, auto rickshaws - 19,947,
taxi - 6255, buses - 7912 and goods vehicles - 35,741. In
order to cater to the need of the local public, a ring railway
is also in operation. The Delhi Transport Corporation is also
operating on interstate routes like Faridabad, Jaipur, Jammu
etc. The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi is an
important international airport linking the different parts of
the world.

 Posts and Telegraphs:
The growth of postal services in Delhi since Independ-ence is
quite impressive. Post Offices handled 35.5 crores of letters
and 48.4 lakh parcels in 1979-80 alone. The number of
Telegraph offices has also increased. Telephone and Tele-
communication services have also enormously increased in
recent times.

 Trade and Commerce:
Being located strategically, Delhi plays a vital role as
distributing centre. The trading centres are fruits and
vegetables market, food grains market, fodder market, cloth
market, dry fruit market and hosiery and general market.
The growth of trade and industry has also resulted in the
advent of different Associations, such as Delhi Factory Owners'
Association, Federation of Biscuit Manufacturers Association, Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association etc. The most important items of trade in Delhi are livestock, coal and coke, cement, iron and steel bars, pulses, wheat, salt, vegetable oils, wood and timber etc.