Evolution of Market:

Markets in the most literal and immediate sense are places where things are bought and sold. In the modern industrial system, however, the market is not a place; it has expanded to include the whole geographical area in which sellers compete with each other for customers. Alfred Marshall, whose "Principles of Economics" was for long an authority for English-speaking economists, based his definition of the market on that of the French economist, A. Cournot:

"Economists understand by the term Market, not only particular market place in which things are bought and sold, but the whole of any region in which buyers and sellers are in such free intercourse with one another that the prices of the same goods tend to equality easily and quickly".¹

To this Marshall added:

"The more nearly perfect a market is, the stronger is the tendency for the same price to be paid for the same thing at the same time in all parts of the market".²

² Ibid.
History and anthropology provide many examples of economics based neither on markets nor on commerce. An exchange of gifts between communities with different resources, for example, may resemble trade, particularly in diversifying consumption and encouraging specialization in production, but subjectively it has a different meaning.

When men started to live making all kinds of necessary goods needed by them then they had no idea either of exchange or trade. Their very limited wants were satisfied by their immediate environment. Nomads too had some sort of free exchange of petty articles in the form of gifts or reciprocal exchange of needed items, when men started living in groups, whatever their size, they began an exchange of commodities.

A change from primitive society to peasant society is the cause of the beginning of exchange at some fixed place. With the development of agriculture and with the improvement in living conditions, men soon realized the advantage of trade and they began to produce more than what was required to meet local needs. This kind of trade too was limited to certain favourable geographical locations such as the banks of rivers or their junction, junction of travel routes, coastal points, an oasis, etc. Similarly, progress from one system to another was the result of slow development through the ages.1

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"Markets as centres of commerce seem to have had three separate points of origin. The first was rural fairs. A typical cultivator fed his family and paid the landlord and the money lender from his chief crop. He had sidelines that provided saleable products, and he had needs that he could not be satisfied at home. It was then convenient for him to go to a market where many could meet to sell and buy. The second point was service to the landlords. Rent, essentially, was paid in grain; even when it was translated into money, sales of grain were necessary to supply the cultivator with funds to meet his dues. Payment of rent was a one way transaction, imposed by the landlord. In turn, the landlord used the rents to maintain his warriors, clients, and artisans, and this led to the growth of towns as centres of trade and production. An urban class developed with a standard of life enabling its members to cater to each other as well as to the landlords and officials. The third and most influential, origin of markets was in international trade. From early times merchant adventurers (the Phoenicians, the Arabs, etc.) risked their lives and their capital in carrying the products of one region to another".¹ These trade points lead to the origin and development of market.

On the way to the evolution of specialised trading comes the rise of regular trading. John Hicks² views that

¹ The Encyclopaedia Britannica, op. cit., p.513.
the simplest way in which regular trading may grow up is probably the following:

"Any kind of social gathering (such as a religious festival) provides an opportunity for trading; trading which begins as casual, but becomes habitual. The articles may have been brought, in the first place, for personal consumption during the festival, or as gifts for the Gods but if the participants do not bring just the same thing, they will be tempted to barter with one another some of the goods they have brought. As this begins, it is a mere sideline; and if the advantages to be got from such rudimentary trading are small, it will remain a sideline. But when the advantages are more considerable the new activity will grow; and it may well grow at the expense of that which was the original motive for meeting. The religious harvest festival turns into a village fair or village market".

However, gatherings held on the occasion of festival or any other reason in the town or villages gradually developed into authorised centres for trading known as 'markets'. These market places became popular because people satisfied their needs through exchange.

The most important aspect of the development of market-place trade was the beginning of periodic markets. These periodic markets have been developed all over the world to fulfil the limited wants of the people and also to dispose off the limited surplus available for sale after satisfying their own needs. The periodic markets are of two types, viz.
(1) Weekly or bi-weekly or those meeting on some specific day of the month, and

(2) Fairs.

The difference between the first type of markets and the others, lies in the fact, that, the former is primarily an assemblage of traders on some specific days of the week or fortnights to facilitate retail as well as wholesale operations. While the fair may be held once or twice in a year and become the focal point for sometime for the community's economic, religious, and cultural activity. Periodic markets were being organised at intervals of two to ten days in some parts of the world. Although, these markets are characteristically of the medieval ages, they are still prevalent in several countries of Africa and Asia. These markets mostly operate in a ring system or in circuits and their days are fixed in such a way that a trader can visit a maximum number of markets by adopting a circular route. In many parts of the developing world such markets play an important role in rural economic development and they co-exist with urban markets.

Evolution of Regulated Markets:

The history of marketing legislation or regulations can be traced back to the time of Prophet Jacob. During a prolonged famine, his son went over to Egypt to buy wheat

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2 Ibid.
from their brother Joseph. Each person was allowed only a specified quantity. There is also an evidence to the effect that in 794, dubbed as a period of "hard times" Chalemagne prohibited profiteering in wheat and other food stuffs by setting up maximum prices and apparently forbade "cornering" the supplies by influential traders.

In ancient times people used to exchange their produce among themselves at a particular place. The exchange activities and the place were not governed by any rules and regulations. But when the market came into existence as 'fairs' at a particular time and particular place on the occasion of religious festival, these fairs were controlled by the religious authority. Venn pointed out that when Christianity came into Western Europe, the practice of combining Church festivals with what are now known as 'fairs' came into existence. At the time of RomanOrigin, some French fairs were traced out. Later gatherings of fairs became common and evolved into markets. These fairs followed strict rules and regulations formed by conventions and customs, but without any direct or indirect interference from the Government. Generally, fairs were held once or twice a year.

2 Ibid.
i.e. recurring at distant intervals. Markets may function in the space of short intervals unlike the fairs.

The fairs play a vital role in the rural economy. They are a marketing occasion for rural inhabitants. Fairs also serve as stimuli to trade, upon which in many instances the economic welfare of an entire community depends. Transactions take place on retail basis. So, retail marketing is a dominant feature of all fairs.

In ancient times, fairs were held at natural sites, in or near temples at the time of some religious festival and under the protection of local chiefs. Fairs also came into existence at place where merchant caravans had to halt to change their means of transportation, or where multitudes of people assembled at particular times for a religious festival. During those days, the volume of trade was small, transportation difficult and the economy at a subsistence level. It was good for the seller as well as for consumers to gather annually or at intervals of three or six months to centralize the supply and demand of merchandise at a particular place. These fairs were managed under certain rules formed by the locale elite and other influential people.

When, population began to rise and the people started producing more, they felt the need for new places where exchanging or selling could be facilitated. As a result, the

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popularity of fairs waned and new market place came into existence. "The history of markets in Western Europe can be traced to the rise of fairs in the tenth century following the breakdown of local isolation and the expansion of commercial contacts", says Hodder.¹

Market regulation can be traced also in India during the ancient and medieval periods. During the Mauryan sovereignty, trade was minutely regulated. The amount and price of all goods was declared, and the sale was by auction. Any type of combination or malpractice which affected prices was punishable. At all important centres a record was maintained stating "who the merchants are, whence they come, with what merchandise, and where it has been vised".² K.S. Lal has mentioned in his book 'History of the Khiljis' that "Alauddin took measures for market control during the early medieval period (1290 to 1320 A.D). These measures may be considered as landmarks in the history of the development of the marketing system in India. These measures were effective in the Delhi region only and was an indication of the State control on marketing for fair distribution and for checking unfair practices in trade".³

¹ Hodder, B.W., Economic Geography, Methuen, 1974, p.142.
² Saxena, H.M., op. cit., p.23 (Quoted from Rapson, E.J. (Eds.), The Cambridge History of India, Vol.1, Ancient India, S. Chand & Co., New Delhi, 1968).
³ Ibid., p.24. (Quoted from K.S. Lal, History of the Khiljis, 1967). In order to check the blockade imposed by Mougals invaders at Delhi, Alauddin decided to overcome the difficulties of transport and food shortage by market regulation. He regulated the prices of foodgrains and fixed them at... (contd......)
With the advent of science and technology in Western Europe, industrial revolution came and people started producing more and more goods. Men created new market places. Transportation also facilitated this new creation of markets. As a result, new market places came into existence and the popularity of fairs came down. This expansion of markets led to the promulgation of the Market and Fairs Act of 1862 in U.K. to regulate the markets and fairs activities. This is the first known form of government regulation in that country.

A commission on agriculture was appointed in 1862 to investigate into markets and tools. The Commission's recommendations were implemented in the form of the Markets and Fairs Act in 1862. After this, several Acts were enacted with a view to provide fair trading practices in the markets. Market committees were formed to manage and control the public markets in Britain. Several 'Boards' were also established

Contd......

very low rates. The prices fixed for important items were as follows:

Wheat = 7½ jital\* per man+
Barley = 4 jital per man
Gram = 5 jital per man
Rice = 5 jital per man
Sugar = 1½ jital per ser**
Gur = 1/3 jital per ser
Ghee (Butter) = 1 jital per 2½ ser
Oil of sesameum = 1 jital for 3 ser
Salt = 1 jital for 1/2 man

Note: * 'jital' was a copper coin, in one silver tanka there were fifty jitals.
** Ser was a unit of weight equal to 0.93310 kilogram.
+ Forty ser was equal to one 'man' (one 'man' is equal to 37.3242kgs.)

to manage the markets. But Boards failed to function properly and this created 'Commissions' and 'Authorities' to replace the defunct Boards.¹

In Great Britain, social welfare had demanded legislation to control and regulate markets. A court of "pie poudre" was held in every market or fair in England and Wales to work for the maintenance of law and order and to see that contracts were honoured. Between 1896 and 1926, as many as thirty-two Acts were passed in Great Britain in regard to the regulation of fairs. The local bodies usually had a market committee to look after the markets under their jurisdiction, and these markets were supervised by a market Superintendent in its day-to-day works.²

So, it can be said that gathering held at any important place for purpose of selling and buying of commodities gradually turned into 'market'. But these markets would have to receive an authorisation from an authority. B.A. Patil

¹ Hallet, Graham, The Economics of Agricultural Policy, London, 1971, pp.213-221. The Industry Development Authority 1956 and the Meat and Livestock Commission were established instead of the defunct Board. It should be noted that no information available to point out about the causes of defunct of the Board.

² Srivastava, R.S., Agricultural Marketing in India and Abroad, Vora & Co., Bombay, 1960, pp.176-177. Among the Acts, the more important were the Markets and Fairs Acts of 1874, which consolidated many of the previous Acts and Regulation; the Weights and Measures Act 1878; the Corn Sales Act of 1921, and the Horticultural Produce Act of 1926.
pointed out that when a market was to be held in the village area or in an important new place, it was necessary to receive approval as per the Act from the District Magistrate. Market places continued to exist getting authorisation from the legal authority and were controlled under definite rules and regulations.

The need for market regulation was felt by the government to safeguard the interest of developing industrial sector and also to promote efficient and effective marketing of agricultural commodities. It is essential to safeguard the interest of the agricultural producing class. P.V. Shenoi says that: "the central objective of the management activities of agricultural marketing is to get the best possible deal for the farmer in order to provide motivation to him to optimise his output, giving him a good income, without however, causing hardship to the consumer". The first task of the management is to identify the various market constraints which hold down the income of the farmer and to arrange them in an order of economic priority. Secondly, the cost benefit implications of each constraint have to be judged, and thirdly, the available scarce resources like trained manpower, money and material have to be employed for the maximum benefit of the farmer.

The constraints may be due to the lack of physical

infrastructure facilities, viz. transport, storage or service facilities like packing, processing, grading or lack of institutional facilities for price stabilization, regulation of demand (such as regulated markets), marketing credits, etc. The managerial task is to identify these market constraints by preparing plans and programmes in a phased manner.

For improving agricultural markets and marketing conditions for the benefit of the farmer various Governments in the world have from time to time, intervened in the marketing practices in different ways. Historical evidence proves that the regulation of markets started in the early ages. But, serious attempts on the regulation of markets appeared to in the latter part of the 19th century and become widespread in the first half of the 20th century.

Agricultural marketing in the U.S.A. received State attention much earlier than in Europe. Through the passing of the State legislation by Minnesota to regulate market functionaries, control of markets in the U.S.A. began in 1899. The interest of the people in marketing problems was first aroused by the report of the Industrial Commission in 1900. The report expressed demand for State assistance in regard to agricultural marketing. With its commitments to a Laissez faire economy, 'Marketing Orders and Agreements' became a common feature by 1930 in U.S.A. and the wide recognition of the utility of these measures led to the passing

1 Ibid., p.126.
of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act by the Federal Government in the same year. Under this Act, all market functionaries -- commission men, merchants and brokers -- dealing with perishable products in interstate commerce were required to obtain a licence from the Secretary of Agriculture and to get it renewed annually. In U.S.A., the process of legislation to intervene in the agricultural marketing mechanism continues from that time.

The first major cash crop introduced for peasant cultivation in East Africa was cotton. The Colonial Government sought to introduce a monetary economy into the area. In Uganda, the Uganda Company was set up in 1903 to take over the economic activities of Church Missionary Society (C.M.S), particularly to encourage cultivation and to market cotton. But, reports began to arrive from Britain in 1907, warning the Colonial Governments of the deterioration of quality of Uganda Cotton. The Government then decided to intervene in a drastic way. Through these measures Uganda cotton managed to hold its place in the export market, and the industry continued to grow rapidly. Reminiscing about those early days, a retired British Agricultural Officer in Uganda stated:

"The cotton seed in general distributed in this period was very mixed, but strangely

1 Srivastava, R.S., op. cit., pp.177-182.
the price realised in the Liverpool market was, on the whole, satisfactory and compared favourably with that realised for similar type of American growth. It would seem therefore that the seed, though mixed, was gradually becoming acclimatized and was developing a character of its own.¹

The question of mixing different varieties of cotton reappeared in the early 1930s. The Uganda Colonial Government again decided to intervene drastically in order to maintain the purity of seed. The Cotton (Amendment No.2) Ordinance of 1933 enabled the Governor to declare any part of the protectorate to be a Cotton "Zone", and to prohibit or restrict the movement of cotton into, or out of, any zone.² Uganda has established statutory Marketing Boards, having exclusive authority to sell the produce and even to fix a 'fair price' for the produce and also for the purpose of achieving orderly marketing.

In Kenya, the first Cotton Ordinance which was enacted in 1908, was similar in context to that of the Uganda Cotton Ordinance, 1908. Different Marketing Boards have been established to handle the marketing problems of different kinds of agricultural produce.³ After the independence of Uganda, Kenya and Zanzibar, Statutory Marketing Boards were established

³ Cited in Yoshida, Masao, op. cit., p.16.
between 1961 and 1963 to deal with different agricultural commodities and became the most characteristic feature of the agricultural marketing system.

In Australia, efforts to fix minimum price for wheat in 1930 proved abortive, and between 1931-34 State assistance to those units stricken by the depression took the form of subsidies. Besides price regulation, State action was directed to many other important aspects of marketing. The steps taken to regulate trade practices and the quality of commodities have in general proved their worth.\(^1\) Canadian regulation through Market Boards came in a different context, when the co-operative societies failed. In 1927, the Government initiated marketing schemes by organising Boards.\(^2\) Marketing Boards were set up in Canada and South Africa to solve specific problems growing out of the depression of the 1930s.\(^3\)

In Northern Ireland, the first Act for regulating marketing was passed in 1924 and was related to eggs, which was followed by other Acts — viz. those of 1926 and 1936 dealing with the same subjects. The Marketing of Potatoes Act

\(^1\) Srivastava, R.S., *op. cit.*, pp.182-183.


1928, the Dairy Produce Act, 1929 and 1931; the Agricultural Produce (Meat Regulations) Act, 1930 and the Marketing of Fruit Act, 1931 are the others in this field. The main features which distinguish these from the English Acts were the provision for licensing dealers and processors, followed later by grading and price-fixation in some cases. The Acts relating to potatoes and fruits laid greater emphasis on exports.¹

Thus, it can be said that the system of market intervention or market regulation has reached its present state of development, thanks to the inspiration it received from the past. In the first half of the 20th Century, the market regulation practice started spreading all over the world. Almost all agricultural based countries have adopted this policy and are aware of the possibilities of better marketing of their produce.

Development of Regulated Markets in India:

It becomes clear from empirical evidence that many of the periodic markets of today were functioning as such even before the British arrived on the scene. These markets were located at the seats of administrative power of the local principalities. The road development programme of the British, which was started to help promote local trade, gave rise to the construction of Rest Houses in the areas away from the district headquarters. As the British administration

¹ Srivastava, R.S., op. cit., p.180.
spread its tentacles, the villages having Rest Houses gained importance as centres of revenue and administration; these villages seemed to have an advantage over others as possible locations of a periodic market, and furthered the process of transition from a centre of mobile administration to that of periodic marketing.¹

The number of market places started increasing due to the expansion of trade and commerce. The growing demand of agricultural raw materials for the industries in England facilitated the creation of new markets in India. India became the source of raw materials to Britain. In the first half of the twentieth century, reports started reaching the then Government of India about the quality deterioration of raw material as well as the poor and helpless conditions of the producing class. So, the then British Government in India decided to intervene through the creation of regulated markets on the same lines as had been adopted in Great Britain for improvement of the situation.

In Great Britain, during the late Victorian period, Acts controlling the piecemeal conduct of the scattered urban markets began to appear in the Statute Book. There were 32 such Acts in the United Kingdom by 1920. A Committee was set up to investigate and comment upon the prevailing (legal)

chaos in British Agricultural Markets in 1922. In 1924, a separate Market Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture was formed under the Chairmanship of Lord Linlithgow. In India, a Royal Commission on Agriculture was appointed in 1926. Subsequently, he (L. Linlithgow) became the Viceroy of India and the head of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1928.\footnote{Harris, Barbara, \textit{Transitional Trade and Rural Development: The Nature and Role of Agricultural Trade in South India}, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, 1981, pp.38-39.}

It was required to examine and report on the prevailing conditions of agriculture. The Commission was asked to investigate, particularly, on:

1. The measures being taken for the promotion of agricultural and veterinary research, experiment, demonstration and education, the compilation of agricultural statistics, introduction of new and better crops and improvement in agricultural practices, dairy farming, and the breeding of stock;

2. The existing methods of transport and marketing of agricultural produce and stock;

3. The methods by which agricultural operations were financed and credit afforded to agriculture; and


The financial position of the Indian farmer had been precarious during the years following the depression.
That the marketing of his produce constituted a real problem was hardly been realized in India until the Royal Commission on Agriculture (1928) brought to the notice of the Government of India the deplorable condition of the Indian farmer labouring under serious disabilities and exposed to exploitation in the absence of adequate marketing facilities. It drew attention to the various drawbacks and shortcomings he faced (the Indian farmer) for the disposal of his produce at an uneconomic price. The Royal Commission, therefore, emphasized that improvement in production alone cannot be stabilised unless corresponding improvement in the marketing of agricultural produce is also effected simultaneously.\footnote{Jain, S.C., \textit{Principles and Practice of Agricultural Marketing and Prices}, Vora & Co., Bombay, pp.305-306.}

Regulated markets have been developed in this country for making marketing of agricultural produce more orderly and efficiently. The principal aim in regulating agricultural produce market is to remove the malpractices in the market and to ensure a fair deal to producer. Regulation of agricultural markets was suggested as early as in 1928 by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India.

But, historical evidence proves that the step towards a regulated market was introduced in India much earlier than the Royal Commission even thought of it. 'Karanja' was the first regulated market to be established in 1886 under the
Hyderabad Residency's Order. Later, in 1897, a special law known as "The Cotton and Grain Market Law" was enacted in Berar. Berar was known then as "Hyderabad Assigned District". The aim of the laws were to improve the situation, specially in marketing of agricultural produce; and this was the first major step taken by the Britishers regarding market regulation. The highlights of this Act were:

(i) all the markets which existed on the date of the enforcement of the law came under it fold,

(ii) the Resident could set up additional markets or bazaars for the sale of agricultural produce,

(iii) the Commissioner was to appoint a Committee of five members to look after the market affairs,

(iv) trade allowances or customs in usage were abolished,

(v) unauthorised markets and bazaars were banned within five miles of the notified market or bazaar,

(vi) bazaar/market functionaries were required to take out licences,

(vii) the Resident was empowered to make rules for some specific matters,

(viii) penalties were laid down for breach of certain provisions of the law.

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1 Prasad, A. Sivarama, Agricultural Marketing in India, Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1985, p.42.


3 Saxena, H.M., op. cit., p.27.
Thus, the regulated markets came into existence and started functioning with due regard to the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country. Mirchandani and Hiranandani say:

"this type of reform at the primary level of marketing was first recognised for general adoption in the country by the General Cotton Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1918 and later it received a wider recognition. In pursuance of this recommendation, the then Government of Bombay was the first to enact the Bombay Cotton Markets Act in 1927".1

In fact, it was the first law in the country which attempted the regulation of markets. The purpose of such attempt was to evolve sound market practices fair and beneficial to the producer and to the trader. But, it was not implemented properly because of certain limitations and local interests of the market committees. According to Royal Commission on Agriculture in India:2

"the market committees are unwilling to take energetic action to secure fair trading owing to the fact that the majority of their

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members are general commission agents or large buyers who do not wish to offend the class to which they belong or on which they are very closely dependent for a successful season's trade".

Though, the working of these markets were not satisfactory, they proved very helpful to the growers of cotton. The growers responded enthusiastically by selling through these markets more and more of their produce.\(^1\) It was found that not less than 68 per cent of the cotton sold in that province was sold in those markets.\(^2\)

Later, the regulation of markets received wider recognition after the enactment of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1928. The Commission focused attention on the defects and chaotic conditions existing in the agricultural commodity markets and recommended that "these defects can only be removed by the establishment of properly regulated markets."\(^3\) The Central Banking Enquiry Committee, the Provincial Economic Conference, etc. endorsed this recommendation subsequently in their reports and several provinces adopted the basic market regulation policy drawing inspiration from the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

The recommendations of the Commission were made with a view to bring about all-round efficiency in the field of

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3. Ibid., p.389.
agricultural production. The aim was to make agriculture a profitable industry rather than a mode of living. The Commission covered such subject, as fragmentation and subdivision of holdings, irrigation, improvement of livestock, rural education, co-operation, marketing, etc. One of the basic recommendations of the Commission was to change the outlook of the cultivator himself so that they may take an active interest in bringing about improvements.\(^1\) It suggested that "rural problem should be tackled as a whole in all its various aspects simultaneously".\(^2\) It assigned the Government specific responsibilities for bringing about improvements in rural life.

Following the recommendations, the Central Provinces Cotton Market Act was enacted and the Cotton and Grain Markets Law of Berar was amended in 1932. In 1933, the Madras Commercial Crops Act was passed. Since 1934, a similar legislation, the Agricultural Produce Markets Act existed in Baroda.\(^3\) On the recommendation of the Royal Commission, the office of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India was constituted during 1935 and the office was the first manifestation of the realisation by the Government of India of the importance of agricultural marketing.

\(^1\) Bansil, P.C., *op. cit.*, p.37.


organisations with the help of subsidies from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The main objectives of agricultural marketing organisations were:

(i) to help the cultivator in the profitable disposal of his produce and creating the necessary incentive for improving his production, both qualitatively and quantitatively;

(ii) to minimise the share of market functionaries in consumer's price and to render services as will benefit both producers and consumers; and

(iii) to explore the possibilities of export of agricultural commodities for inland and foreign trade thereby earning foreign exchange.

But, unfortunately, further progress in the course of fulfilling of these objectives has been rather too slow. The department had quite inadequate staff and grants and this could be the major cause for the failure to achieve the aforesaid goals.

The markets controlled under the Acts constituted in the first half of 1930 did not achieve the desired results because the markets could not properly safeguard the interest of the growers. The Committee Members were not showing keen interest in the welfare of the producer-seller. It has been mentioned earlier in one paragraph that the Market Committees were dominated by Commission Agents and large buyers. The members of the cultivating classes in the area served by the market are excluded from the Committee and that their very
substantial interests in the proper management of the market receive no recognition. This was done purposely, because, according to the criteria laid down, no person was eligible for appointment to the Committee, who had not resided within the limits or within five miles from the limits of the town in which the market was situated for at least three months prior to the date on which the list of persons eligible for appointment to the Committee is prepared. Naturally, the cultivating class could not fulfill this criteria.

In 1938, a model bill was prepared by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department. This bill covered the whole of the country. On the basis of the bill, several States and Provinces drafted their own legislative enactments. Following other States -- Punjab, Hyderabad and Mysore passed Acts in 1939. But, on the eve of World War-II, i.e., in 1939, only half a dozen then provinces and States had enacted legislation for market regulation and the total number of regulated markets established was 122. Progress for establishing regulated markets were very slow. Till 1950, only 286 regulated markets were working in the Central Provinces, Bombay, Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Punjab. One

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1 The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, op. cit., p. 390.

2 Later, this Department renamed into the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India (established in Nagpur).
reason for this slow growth is the selfish motives and vested interests of the trading class. These markets were not managed properly. So, they could not give substantial benefit to the producing class as well as to the consumers. But, in a very few cases, the regulated markets proved to be fruitful to the producing class and to the traders and consumers.

From 1940 to 1946 (during the period of World War-II) almost all the markets became defunct. Few markets were working only partially. The Royal Commission's view did not last long during this period. So, progress in the field of regulation of markets was checked. This period is considered as the liberation movement period for India. So, the then British Government did not show much interest in further development of regulated markets. Second World War also was one of the reasons for not taking part any interest for development. India became an independent country in 1947. In spite of its broken socio-political and economic conditions, activities of the regulated markets were at a stand still to some extent. In the post-war period a rapid expansion of regulated markets took place.

After independence, India was just recovering from the after-effects of partition. There was no noticeable work done by the Government for regulated markets for sometime.

The Government was only concerned with the immediate problems

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of nation buildings. Plans for long term economic development were not taken during that time. There was an urgent need to formulate new economic policies for the country as a whole. The Government of India set up the Planning Commission in March 1950, to prepare a plan for the "most effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources".\(^1\) The first five-year plan was made effective from April, 1951. In the area of development of marketing, especially of agricultural products, a directive was issued to the States to develop regulated markets.

The Planning Commission in its first and subsequent five year plans emphasized the need and vital role played by the regulated markets in promoting an orderly marketing of farm produce in the country. The Commission also urged various States that had not enacted the necessary legislation to do so and to regulate the markets thereunder.\(^2\) A well managed marketing system which protects the interest of both producers and consumers and also the traders, is the backbone of agricultural development. Steps were initiated to remove existing deficiencies that threatened agricultural economy. A well integrated marketing system for agricultural produce had to be developed also. Realising this, the planners rightly decided to pay greater attention to marketing and trade and institutional framework which can help particularly to minimise the

\(^1\) Saxena, H.M., *op. cit.*, p.28.

handicaps of small and marginal farmers and maximise the benefits of intensive agriculture offered by small holdings.\(^1\)

Undoubtedly, the establishment and strengthening of regulated markets is the most effective and important measure. It is expected that the regulated markets will eliminate malpractices and provide an orderly and competitive system of marketing for agricultural produces.

The need for the establishment of regulated markets was felt because the prevailing system was not suitable, specially to the farmer-seller. In order to ameliorate the sad conditions of the producing class, regulated markets have been established and continue to function since 1930. In 1951, the policy of the India Government was aimed at fighting all the short-comings existing in agricultural marketing and the First Five Year Plan visualised the regulation of new markets throughout the country. Second Plan period was considered as the continuation of First Plan and for effecting improvements in the working of the markets already established. The growth of such markets in the beginning was slow, but in 1960 and 1970, the progress was quite substantial. From 1980 to 1984, the trend towards regulation of markets was on the increase when compared to the previous years. Table-4.1 shows the growth of regulated markets in India.

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<td>1980-84</td>
<td>5,579</td>
<td>4,573</td>
<td>+1,133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The latest data of the number of regulated markets is available up to 31-3-1984.

(iv) Compiled from the above sources.

It can be seen from the table that in 1950s, i.e., during the First and Second Plan periods, Government had just initiated the programme of market expansion for regulation after independence. Consequently, in the space of ten years only 321 number of markets had come under regulation.
Allocation of resources were also less. The Second Five Year Plan allocated slightly less than 20 per cent of the total expenditure to "Agriculture and Rural Development". These two plan periods did not bring about the desired results. More markets developed as regulated ones, i.e., 1466 and 2,376 respectively during 1960s - 70s. In this period, allocation of resources were more for this purpose and the Government took keen interest. In the Sixth Plan, Agricultural marketing was given special importance by allotting 96.11 crores rupees exclusively for its development.\(^1\) The main thrust of the Sixth Five Year Plan therefore, would be on:

(a) a further expansion of the regulated market system in terms of both more markets and commodities to be brought within the scope of regulation;

(b) strengthening the arrangements for enforcement and inspections to ensure a regulated system of open auctions, trading practices and margins of intermediaries; and

(c) development of rural markets and shandies and establishment of rural markets in areas where such a facility is not available within a reasonable distance.\(^2\)

From 1980 to 1984, the number of markets brought under regulation are 1,133. So, by the end of 1984, a total number of 5,579 markets have been regulated in this country.

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Some States took keen interest for the development of regulated markets and enacted necessary legislations for this purpose, whereas, some others lagged far behind. Their actions were slow. Even today, there are States and Union Territories that have not initiated any constructive effort in this regard. Table 4.2 below shows the growth of regulated markets in the different States.

Table 4.2
State-wise Growth of Regulated Markets in India as on 31-3-1984

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>State/Union Territory</th>
<th>Number of Regulated Markets Principal</th>
<th>Subyard</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>9.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bihar*</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>13.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gujarat**</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>5.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>3.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh***</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>5.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh**</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>7.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Maharashtra*</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>11.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Orissa**</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>11.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Rajasthan***</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>6.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>4.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tripura***</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>11.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>5.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Delhi***</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Goa, Daman and Diu</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>APMR ACT NOT YET ENACTED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>-DO-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>-DO-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</td>
<td>-DO-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>-DO-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Dadra and Nagar</td>
<td>-DO-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
<td>-DO-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>-DO-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 2045 3534 5579

Note:  
* Figures are provisional.  
** Figures relate to December, 1983.  


(2) Percentage calculated and compiled.

Market regulation came into vogue in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu since 1930 followed by other States in the subsequent years. The Table 4.2 indicates that Bihar stood first in the regulation of markets with 765 regulated markets comprising 13.71 per cent of the total regulated markets in the country. Punjab and Maharashtra stood second and third respectively, with 639 and 635 regulated markets
covering 11.45 per cent and 11.38 per cent of the total markets of this kind. The other States where the regulation is significant enough are Uttar Pradesh (623 - 11.17%), Andhra Pradesh (556, 9.96%), Madhya Pradesh (431, 7.73%), Rajasthan (353, 6.33%), Karnataka (329, 5.90%), West Bengal (320, 5.73%), Gujarat (304, 5.45%), Tamil Nadu (261, 4.68%), Haryana (192, 3.44%), etc. Some States and Union Territories were less number of regulated markets. Regulation is completely absent in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim. Except Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Daman and Diu, other Union Territories have not yet enacted the legislation pertaining market regulation.

It is evident from the Table-4.1 that substantial progress in market regulation was achieved during 1970-80, and the Table-4.2 also reveals the active interest evinced by respective Governments of the States. Some States developed more number of markets, but many of them lagged behind. As mentioned earlier 5,579 number of markets have been developed as regulated by March, 1984 in this country. Even then, the progress in the field of market regulation is not very satisfactory. Still, quite a sizeable number of markets remain to be regulated. Further, with the increase in the agricultural production and extension of agricultural exchanges, there is need for the establishment of regulated markets.

In different Plan periods, number of steps have been taken for regulating the marketing practices, standardising weights and measures, developing suitable infrastructure facilities in the market yards, introducing quality standards
through 'Agmark' certification, managing markets by a Committee etc. Through the Agricultural Produce Markets Act, a legal framework has been provided in all the States, even then, the progress in the development of markets and in the enforcement of the Act have been very uneven. Owing to the inability to enforce the Act, several malpractices, deductions and charges that a producer-seller has to bear still continue in different markets.

Steps have to be taken so that the management authority can effect drastic measures to remove all disabilities from the markets. Further steps have to be taken not only to bring the remaining secondary/assembly or terminal markets but also the primary markets under regulation. For this, the Central Directorate of Marketing and Inspection can provide necessary guidance and assistance to the State Government in extending regulation to all the markets within their jurisdiction. Another drastic step the Government has to take is to bring all private markets under the public fold and regulation extended to those markets also.

Development of Regulated Markets in West Bengal:

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and as endorsed by other Enquiry Committees several States passed legislations for the regulation of the markets in the years between 1930 and 1940. Unlike many other States in the country, West Bengal has been
a late starter in the field of regulation. In West Bengal, around 1968-69, an Act to regulate agricultural marketing was passed. But, that Act proved inadequate in many respects. The provisions of the Act were at variance with the accepted concept of regulation. The chief weakness was that the assembling markets were outside the ambit of regulation. In these markets, the implementation of the regulatory programme was necessary. The responsibility of management and providing of facilities were vested on the owners of the village hats. There was no provision in the Act for raising of resources for construction of modern infrastructure. Infrastructural facilities were badly needed for the marketing of cash crops.¹

Discussions were then initiated regarding the weaknesses of the Act with the Government of India, the Financing Banks, Warehousing Corporation and other agencies involved to reform the Act. The decision was to repeal the Act and to replace it by another with suitable provisions for effective implementation of regulation programmes so as to benefit the producers and meet their increasing needs for marketing facilities.² The Act in the revised form was thus adopted in West Bengal in 1972 and came as "The West Bengal Agricultural


² Ibid.
Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1972". Later, this Act was amended from time to time (1975, 1977, 1978 and 1981).

The Act of 1972, provides for the declaration of notified area, notified commodities, formation of market committees, collection of market fees, etc. It further empowers the Government to make rules for proper management and regulation of such markets, confers on the market committees the powers to frame bye-laws, define prohibitory acts, offences and authorizes someone competent enough to try and impose fines on the offenders etc.

The main features of the West Bengal Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulations) Act of 1972 are to provide institutional protection to the producer-sellers by way of providing organised markets, to establish statutory market committees composed of representatives of all the interests concerned with not less than 50 per cent of the members drawn from the farming community, to fix the limit of the market area/market yard/sub-market-yard, to abolish some of the market charges which were charged by the traders for their own interest, to levy market fees on the transactions of regulated commodities from the buyers, etc. Another most important feature of the Act is that the Market Committee has the authority to raise or borrow market-funds for development of outlay of market-yard/sub-yard and other infrastructural facilities which facilitate the efficient marketing.
The programme for regulating markets started only in 1973 under the provision of West Bengal Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1972. Till the end of 1985, only 38* of the total 235 secondary assembling markets have been brought within the ambit of this programme. There are 15 districts in the State and regulated markets have been developed in all the districts except one, viz. 24-Pargana. In 1973, as the first step, 15 markets were brought under regulation and in 1974 and in 1975, 9 and 7 markets respectively. In the subsequent years, the regulation of markets progressed slowly, but steadily as a few more markets were regulated in the years 1977, 1980 and 1982, i.e. 1, 4 and 2 markets respectively. The following table (Table-4.3) shows the progressive growth of regulated markets in the State.

Table - 4.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Markets Brought under regulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Directorate of Agricultural Marketing, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta.

Note: *Number of markets has been given excluding sub-market yards.
The continued success of the production programme required a system of orderly and guided marketing. It was, therefore, felt necessary to hasten the programme of regulation. But in West Bengal, regulation programme is not so rapid. Table-4.4 shows the district-wise progress in the regulation of markets. More markets have been brought under the ambit of regulation in Bakura and Murshidabad accounting for 5 markets each. The other districts have less number of regulated markets.

Table - 4.4

District-wise Regulated Markets in West Bengal As On 31-12-1985

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the Districts</th>
<th>Number of Regulated Markets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bakura</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bardwan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Birbhum</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Cooch Bihar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Darjeeling</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Howra</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Hughly</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Jalpaiguri</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Maldah</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Midnapur</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Murshidabad</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Nadia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Purulia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>West Dinajpur</td>
<td>2, Total = 38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data collected from the Directorate of Agricultural Marketing, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta.
The increase in the notified market centres has improved the marketing facilities of the producers, who are enabled to sell their agricultural commodities at markets located nearer to their villages. Establishment of properly regulated market can benefit the producer-sellers substantially.

**Development of Notified Markets in Bangladesh:**

Markets as an institution had its beginning in Bangladesh, as elsewhere, with the transition from nomadic life to settled life. Initially most of the markets in Bangladesh were of the nature of fairs held on important religious or other festivals at some convenient place either on private or no-man's ('Khash') land. These fairs were held under open sky or under the shade of big banyan trees, mostly on the bank of the rivers. As the agriculture made progress and the social life of the people widened, people started using the fairs as points for the exchange of individuals' surplus produce and articles. So, the need for market place increased, the catering to these increased needs. This encouraged some local people to take the initiative to establish hats and bazaars on their private land as a source of income. In some cases, market places were donated by the local influential or landed aristocrats to elevate their positions in the societies for fame and social status.¹

¹ It is worth mentioning here that the markets as in the whole of India and Bangladesh are of great antiquity. History and development of markets in West Bengal (India) and Bangladesh till 1947 is same, because, both the regions were in the same country. So, progress in this regard came in the same manner. We have discussed this part in regard to the development of markets after division of India (West Bengal) and Pakistan (1st Pakistan, i.e. present Bangladesh) in 1947.
The development of markets in Bangladesh received great encouragement when Lord Cornwallis introduced permanent settlement of land. The allottees of land popularly known as Zamindars because a dominant feature in the economic life of rural Bengal in the later part of 18th century. They were influential people. Through the instrument of permanent settlement, they became the owners of fairs, hats and bazaars. These intelligent Zamindars in course of time visualized the hats and bazaars as potential source of income. This stimulated them to organize the hats and bazaars for collection of tolls and rents. A part of the revenue thus collected was spent for the maintenance and development of the markets. In this way, many new markets were started in order to cater to the increasing needs of the rural economy and also for the increase of income of the Zamindars. Some of the Zamindars were philanthropic in their attitude and donated the market to serve as source of income for the development of roads and other communication links connecting rural areas with urban centres.¹

The British rule ended in 1947, Bengal was divided into two parts. The eastern part became East Pakistan (present Bangladesh) and the Western part became West Bengal and remained with India as a State, which has been mentioned earlier. In Bangladesh, markets remained the property of the Zamindars

until 1949. After that, the then Government decided to reform land holding in the country. Consequently, all markets belonging to landlords and other tenure holders came under the ownership and management of the Ministry of Land Administration and Land Reforms of the Government under the State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950 with the exception of some markets which were owned by the Court of Wards and Religious Trusts.

Though, the Royal Commission on Agricultural in India recommended the regulation of market and marketing activities in 1928, the then Government did not take any interest for market regulation in the Bengal region. After the division in 1947, the then respective governments also did not take keen interest on this matter, as had been done in some provinces of West Pakistan.¹

Gradually, the Government realised the need for market regulation to protect the cultivating class. The Government also got inspiration in this regard observing the success of market regulation in other countries. In an agricultural dominating country like ours, those who are contributing more to the national economy should be protected for their interest as well as for the interest of the Nation. It is a recognised fact that the producing classes are not being remunerated properly for their produce. They are being cheated by the

¹ The reason behind 'why did the then government not take much interest for the regulation of market places?' could not be mentioned here due to no other reference material was available for verifying the facts stated. The same situation also happened for West Bengal in India.
astute traders at every stage while selling their produce and are thus deprived of the actual price. So, the Government should play a vital role in order to improve marketing system.

As per the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India in 1928, to ameliorate the conditions of the farmers and to create better marketing facilities, the then government of East Pakistan (present Bangladesh) in 1964, passed an Act viz., East Pakistan Agricultural Produce Markets Regulation Act 1964, to regulate the markets and marketing activities. This Act became as Bangladesh Agricultural Produce Markets Regulation Act after liberation in 1971. Under this Act, some assembly/secondary type markets have been declared as notified markets and brought under regulation. The following table (Table-4.5) shows the number of markets notified under this Act in different years:

Table - 4.5
Growth of Notified Markets in Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Markets Notified and Brought Under Regulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Department of Agricultural Marketing, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, Dhaka.
The Act of 1964, provides for the declaration of notified area, notified commodities, formation of market committees, collection of market fees, etc. According to this Act, the Government has power also to make rules for proper management and regulation of notified markets. The market committee can prohibit offences, if any occurrence arises during transactions between the seller and buyer. The Act provides institutional protection to the producer-sellers by way of providing organised markets, to establish statutory market committees composed of representatives of all interests concerned, to fix the limit of market charges and market fees on the transactions of notified commodities, etc.

Though, in order to improve the situation by way of regulating marketing charges and other activities of the market functionaries, the then Government enacted the Act in 1964, which provided for regulating the purchase and sales of agricultural produce in the notified markets. The enforcing agency, i.e. the Agricultural Marketing Department could not cope with the task of implementing the provisions of the Act. The reasons behind the non-implementation of the Act have been discussed earlier in Chapter-II. Even then, the Government has declared some markets as 'notified markets' from time to time on the plea that these markets will be regulated under the provision of the Act. Till the end of 1981 only 202 of the total 2,600 assembly/secondary markets have been brought under the jurisdiction of the Act. Most of the important markets have been brought under the ambit of regulation in all
districts (before upgradation of Sub-Division into District) to cover the whole of the country. Some districts have more notified markets, some less. The following table (Table-4.6) shows the district-wise notified markets:

Table - 4.6

District-wise Notified Markets in Bangladesh by the End of 1981.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>Number of Notified Markets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mymensingh</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tangail</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jamalpur</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Faridpur</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Comilla</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Noakhali</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chittagong</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chittagong Hill Tracts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sylhet</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pabna</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rangpur</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Bogura</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dinajpur</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Khulna</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kushlia</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Jessore</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Barisal</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Patuakhali</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Collected from The Department of Agricultural Marketing, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Note: According to the source, there is no change in the number of notified markets since 1981.