CHAPTER-IV

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE
Malwa was a land of plenty and prosperity. Its rich alluvial soils, its fauna, flora, crops, industry, trade prospects and its geographical features, its climate and natural gifts made it an envy of India and of the world.

**Agricultural Production** - Agricultural development and growth of raw material depended during the period under review, on climate, rainfall, soil, system of land tenure, government policy of agricultural improvement, irrigation facilities, supply of improved seeds, livestock, transportation facilities, general peace and absence of oppression of the peasantry. The references of Ibn Battuta when compared with the remarks made by Abul Fazl show that the pattern of production of the province of Malwa had practically seen little changes and Malwa enjoyed for many centuries the fruits of its fertile soil, overflowing rivers, bracing climate, natural resources, lush green fields and the skill of the people in the sphere of agricultural production besides various handicrafts. The soil of Malwa consists either of a loose rich black loam, or a more compact ferguginous mould, both noted for their fertility. Praising the goodness of the Malwa soil Abul Fazl remarks that every part of it is cultivable.

1. Chatarman in Chahar Gulshan and Sujan Rai Bhandari in Khulasatut Tawarikh have given a description of Malwa which is almost similar with the description of Abul Fazl shows that practically no change occured in Malwa.
A striking feature of the agriculture of the province of Malwa was the multiplicity of crops, both food and non-food. Abundance of production led to its export to the other provinces and even outside India and thus Malwa was economically very sound. Fruits of Malwa were greatly praised by the Emperors.

**Food Grains** - Malwa grew abundant food grains including wheat, rice, berley and oilseeds. Wheat grew in a considerable quantity as Abul Fazl puts wheat first among the major crops of Malwa. Wheat was grown all over Malwa, but specially in the regions of the sarkars of Raisen and Sarangpur. The sarkar of Mandu also produced it in large quantity. The bulk of the quantity of wheat produced was transported to other regions or exported. The rich and fertile land of Malwa gifted with so many rivers and their tributaries was best suited for the production of a larger quantity of wheat.

The tropical crop of rice requires much water, high temperature and waterlogging. Rice was also grown in Malwa but in small quantities and was meant for internal consumption. But a pargana of Savligarh in the sarkar of Handia was reputed

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2. Irfan Habib, An Atlas Of The Mughal Empire(Sheet 9B).
3. Rehla,p.167. Ibn Battuta mentions that the region about Dhar produces abundant grain, specially wheat.
for a high level of rice output. Thus it seems that both high and low qualities of rice were cultivated in Malwa. Abul Fazl refers to certain special varieties of rice and in Malwa kur rice was produced besides other common varieties of rice.

Gram was also cultivated in Malwa in large quantity that led to its export from Malwa. Besides wheat, rice and gram Malwa also produced paddy, mustard, jowar, bajra, moong maash, arzan (millet), linseed and til. Abul Fazl says that Garh region had rich agricultural turn-out & exported grains to the Deccan and Gujarat.

Fruits And Vegetables - Vegetables and fruits of various kinds were largely produced in Malwa. Abul Fazl puts mango among the principal fruits of Malwa. Malwa produced mangoes of the best variety and taste and referring to the excellent quality mangoes from Malwa Tahangir remarks that, "through mangoes are produced in many parts, but there are few places the mangoes of which can rival those of Malwa in richness of flavour, sweetness,

1. Thakur Lal, f. 35a, as quoted by Irfan Habib, An Atlas Of The Mughal Empire, p.38.
in freedom from fibre and in size.¹ Mangoes were largely grown in the regions of Umaria,² Hasilpur³ and Sagor⁴ and between Mughal Sarai and Sadhaura⁵ in the sarkars of Kotri Pirawa, Mandu and Chanderi respectively. Mangoes of Malwa due to its excellent variety would have certainly been in great demand in other countries besides other Subahs of the Mughal empire exacting a considerable income to the province.

Melon, a major fruit of Malwa⁶ was produced in Nandurbar⁷ and in the region of Balakwada,⁸ in the sarkar of Bijagarh. Abul Fazl praises the melons of Nandurbar as good in taste.

Among the important fruits that were produced in Malwa, grapes occupied an important place. It was chiefly produced at Hasilpur⁹ and Dhar¹⁰ in the region of sarkar Mandu. Nandurbar

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3. Ibid., pp. 178-179.
4. Ibid., p. 178.
5. Mandy, II, p. 56.
7. Ibid., p. 457.
8. Ibid., p. 463.
also produced a good variety of grapes. In both these regions two crops are said to grow every year. Jahangir informs that in Malwa the grapes grew in abundance that locally they were sold cheap and even the poor classes of the people could afford to purchase as much as they could. Of the other varieties of fruits Khirni and Tamarind also grew in Malwa. In the locality of Khokar in the sarkar region of Sarangpur wine was obtained from Mahua. In Mandu there is a mention of another kind of fruit bearing tree termed Khurasani Imli or baobab (Adansonia digitata). This tree is said to have been introduced into Mandu from Africa during the reign of Mahmud Khalji II. Abul Fazl has mentioned it as tamarind. Abul Fazl mentions "Here the tamarind grows as large as a coconut and its kernel is extremely white."

2. Ibid., pp. 455-456; Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, p. 172.
5. G. Yazdani, Mandu, The City Of Joy, p. 2; Earnest Barnes (Jr. B.B.R.A.S., "Dhar and Mandu," p.355) says "It abounds in Nalcha and Mandu and except an occasional specimen it is not to be found in any other part of Malwa, and is exotic in India. The Adansonia digitata, i.e. the Baobab tree of Senegal is known in Malwa as Khurasani Imli. It seems probable that the tree was introduced into Malwa from Abyssinia during the reign of Mahmud Khalji, when Mandu was at its zenith and close trade relations with that country existed".
In Malwa vegetable crops of different varieties were also cultivated. Mention must be made of lobiya, turiya, Carrot, Onion, Lettuce, Lemon, Peas, etc. The vegetables like spinach, turnip, cabbage, kachnar, chaulai, bethuwa, ginger, boi and radish were also grown to cater with the urban demand. In the cultivation of vegetables a particular caste of malis was engaged in it. There also grew a number of spices. Among them the most common were ajwain, dhania, rai, and ginger. Luard’s list also includes sonph (dilseed), Mitha nim (curry leaf), mirchi (chilli), dhania (corainder seed), ajwain, zira (pepper), rai (mustard), adrak or sonth (ginger).

Other Products - Malwa was famous for its abundance in cultivation of betel leaf or pan. According to Ibn Battuta, an excellent quality of betel leaf was exported to Delhi. The large quantity of betel leaf that was produced in Malwa became a commodity of general consumption and almost an institution in social spheres of life. Even it was given to the guests during the marriage celebrations as a symbol of welcome. Pan was produced at Machalpur in the sarkar region of Sarangpur and

2. Irfan Habib, Agrarian System Of Mughal India, p. 47.
Sironj, which was a great commercial town of Malwa, in the sarkar region of Chanderi. Abul Fazl informs the pan that was produced at Hasilpur in Mandu was fine in quality, but it is possible to read this reference as applying to Malwa generally. The author of Gulzar-i-Abrar, Shaikh Ghausi of Mandu says the best quality of pan was cultivated in the pargana Amjhera (sarkar Mandu). The pan that was produced here were excellent in smell and taste and were exported to other Subahs. People who came to Malwa would take this quality of pan as a gift for their friends to different provinces.

The territory of Malwa is highly fertile, being principally covered with the soil called 'mar' or 'Kali' by the local people and 'black cotton soil' by Europeans, was most suited to the production of cotton which definitely was an important produce during the period under review. Cotton was produced in the region lying between the towns of Barrai and Pamaria in the territory of the sarkars of Raisen and Chanderi.

In the sixteenth century indigo production was a commercially less important. It was used for internal consumption with-

1. Finch, Early Travels, p. 143.
4. The Imperial Gazetteer Of India, Vol.XVII, p. 100.
in India mainly for dyeing, washing or bleaching cloths crystal white and for paints. Used as a dye and for bleaching of cloths, indigo was locally demanded in all cotton manufacturing centres in Malwa. Abul Fazl makes reference to indigo production but its output was relatively in small quantities. Besides indigo, morindo citriioli was cultivated, the root of which produced an excellent red dye, was cultivated in large quantity and was of great commercial value.

The town of Sironj in the sarkar of Chanderi produced roses, presumably in a considerably large quantity. They were both of red and white colours. The roses of white colour bore fair and fine smell. The roses and its wood both formed commercial importance but particularly the rose-wood was required in making tender and decorative pieces demanded in the houses of the richer section of the society.

Of all the productions opium is most important, the soil and climate appearing singularly well adapted for the cultivation of poppy. The milky juice of the poppy heads, dried in the sun and air used as an intoxicant and as medicine was largely manufactured during the period under review in Malwa. Malwa

3. Mundy, II, p. 56.
opium was rated very high, and even children (upto three years) of all classes were given it in some parts there. The extraction of opium from the poppy constituted a great part of export trade of Malwa and was exported to Pegu, Java, Malay Peninsula, China, Persia and Arabia. The best of the opium was produced at Kanasia, in the sarkar territory of Sarangpur. In the sixteenth century Akbar taxed it heavily.

Between the region of Duraha and Sehore, in the sarkar territory of Raisen, the production of sugar-cane was extensively undertaken. The quality of the sugar-cane produced in Malwa was superior and inferior both. The cultivation of the sugar-cane was not quite sufficient for internal consumption.

The seventeenth century witnessed a significant and remarkably novel feature of Indian cropping, the introduction of the new commercial crop of tobacco and extension of its cultivation as a commercial or cash crop. It was almost unknown till the end of Akbar's reign but it was made known to his court by pilgrims from Mecca, brought by the Portuguese from North America into Gujarat early in the seventeenth century. Due to large

2. Jourdain, p.149, Finch, *Early Travels*, p.142, also refers the place name 'Kanasia' for opium manufacture.
trade relations with Gujarat, it is possible that from Gujarat
the tobacco was introduced in Malwa. Terry whose experience was
mainly gained there in Malwa, testifies it was sown "in abun­
dance in his time". Its use, which was confined to aristocra­
tic circles in the reign of Shahjahan but spread to the poorer
classes under Aurangzeb. The author of the Khulasat-ut-Tawarikh,
remarks that in the beginning only a small quantity of it used
to come from Farang (Europe), so that it was not very common.
But ultimately the peasants took to cultivating it with so much
interest that it surpassed other crops, a change which, accord­
ing to him, took place during Jahangir's reign.

The tobacco cultivation in Malwa was sufficient for home
consumption. This tobacco was sweet in smell and strong in taste.
It was used to be taken in pan. The tobacco was also used for
smoking purpose. The Malwa tobacco, more specially that of the
Bhilsa, was very fine, the best in India, and much sought after
by the addict of huqqah.

1. Terry, Early Travels, p. 299.
3. Ibid.
5. Mundy, II, pp. 96-97.
6. The addiction to tobacco smoking spread very fast in the
empire that led to its prohibition by Jahangir. However,
the prohibition was ineffective, Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, p. 183.
FOREST AND THEIR PRODUCTS:

Malwa seems to be covered with widespread forests. However, there is no detailed information of forests but the districts where large number of wild elephants are recorded may extensively be regarded as covering large forests tracts. Abul Fazl has listed among the forests such territories as Chanderi, Raisen, Unchod and Satwas, Hoshangabad, Handia and Bijagarh.¹

Certainly these forests were of more importance to the supply of wood used in buildings, furniture and fuel wood. Several of these forests furnished fine timber, particularly the teak.² These varieties of wood formed valuable articles of commerce. Rose-wood might have been acquired from the orchards of roses in the town of Sironj³, to be used in most decorative and tender furniture and other articles.

These forests further supplied quite a number of products to the people of Malwa. Honey certainly was a fresh product and its by-products were prepared in sizeable quantity was of great use and served various purposes. Wax candles were used for the purpose of illumination in different ceremonies and formed an article of consumption in the royal courts and palaces.⁴ Artificial trees made of wax, silk and wire were used for the purpose of decoration during the marriage ceremony of Prince Ghiyas Shah and similarly on the occasion of reception accorded

¹ Aín-i-Akbari, I, p.132.
³ Mundy, II, p.56.
⁴ U.N. Day, Medieval Malwa, p.358. The illumination in the marriage ceremony of Ghiyas Shah were of wax candles as well as lamps.
to Sultan Muzaffar Shah of Gujarat by Mahmud Khalji II¹.

Gum Lac is a kind of wax found on the barks of certain standing trees. It was an indispensable material for manufacturing bangles and toys. Lac was extracted from the trees, and besides being used for manufacturing bangles for the women, it was also utilized in varnishing furniture, doors, screens, windows and toys.² The Dutch merchants exported it to Persia for red colour. "The lac bangle and toy industry flourished most in Gujarat (perticularly at Surat), but it must have been diffused in other parts of India more or less"³. A large quantity of lac was found in Malwa, particularly in the forests of Dhar.⁴ Thus lac was certainly a very profitable item of trade and most probably it was exported to Gujarat to cater the demand of its bangle and toy industries. During the reign of Shahjahan lac sold at 7½ mahmudis (dams) per maund. The Dutch merchants purchased large quantities of gum lac, and exported it to Persia for textile printing. The English and the Dutch "carried away every year 50 chests at 10 pence per pound".⁵

The largely stretched forests of Malwa had a large number of wild elephants as mentioned by Abul Fazl⁶ and besides these,

¹. U.N. Day, Medieval Malwa, p.358. The illumination in the marriage ceremony of Chiyas Shah were of wax candles as well as lamps.
³. J.N. Sarkar, Studies In Aurangaeb's Reign, 281.
⁵. Bernier, Travels In The Mughal Empire, II, p. 63.
there were many other wild animals too. Among these the tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, hyena, wild dog, antelope, nilgai (nil gaw or white footed antelope), sambar and other deer species. The presence of such wild animals in plenty provided an ample scope for royal game of hunting. While Emperor Jahangir was on the royal tour of Malwa he had enjoyed his time in hunting a number of wild animals there and also refers a four horned antelope which was locally called dudhadharit.

The killing of wild animals also served the purpose of providing hides. The commodities prepared of these hides were of great value. The skin of Sambar when well furnished formed an important material for the military accoutrements of the soldiers. The skin of Sambar was also exported to the neighbouring places. Similarly, elephant tusk was a coveted commodity domestically used in decoration as ivory and exported abroad in shapes of rare and valuable goods. Much of it adorned the royal palaces and nobles' mansions in the Capital.

ANIMALS OF COMMERCIAL VALUE:

Malwa was also rich in sphere of domestic animals. They contributed much to the economy of the province. Among animals

of commercial value like horses, camels, cows and elephants were found in abundance. The region of Bhikangaon, in the sarkar territory of Bijagarh, was rich in horses. The horses of Bhikangaon were certainly used in the cavalry of Malwa Sultans when Malwa was independent and formed part of the troops of the provincial officers after 1562. There might be the export of these horses to the Capital for royal stable.

Similarly excellent breed of cows were reared in Malwa and they were mostly found in the region of Khandwa in the territory of sarkar Handia. There is a reference of one camel and cattle mart at Mandhata located in the territory of sarkar Handia. An annual fair was held here for the sale of cattle but it was famous for the sale of camels.

Thus Malwa had much commercial interests in rearing and sale of these cattle. The cattle mart at Mandhata would have attended by a flock of animal buyers from outside Malwa.

SALT MANUFACTURE:

The indispensability of salt in the life of people can hardly be exaggerated, and the Mughal period was no exception to this. Salt was a essential ingredient of daily food. Hence

3. Thakur Lal, f.35a, as quoted by Irfan Habib, *An Atlas Of The Mughal Empire*, p. 38.
manufacture of salt was then, as now, an important industry and an article of internal trade. Abul Fazl does not mention the production of salt in the description of Subah Malwa. But we are informed by Manucci that in Ujjain salt was manufactured to cater the local demand.

**PAPER MANUFACTURE:**

The art of manufacturing paper was known to the Chinese as early as 105 A.D. The Muslims acquired the knowledge of its manufacture from them in 751. According to Alberuni, paper was not known to India even in the eleventh century. The reference of the manufacture of paper in India was made for the first time by Amir Khusrau who flourished from 1253 to 1325. It, therefore, seems probable that this art of manufacturing paper was introduced in India in the thirteenth century.

In Malwa paper was manufactured at Mandu which had a locality of the paper manufacturers. Ghausi Shattari who finished his *Gulzar-i-Abrar* during the reign of Jahangir says that his father also earned his livelihood from selling papers which obtained from these paper manufacturers.

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4. Alberunis India, I, p. 171.
TEXTILE MANUFACTURES:

The textile industry of Malwa was well-advanced. Malwa produced fine cloth of different qualities. Abul Fazl writes that the cloth of best texture is woven in Malwa. He refers to the excellently woven white muslin (muhmudi, white cloth) of Sironj which was an important centre of manufacture of gold and silver embroidered cloth. The quality of this cloth made at Sironj was that it was semi-transparent known as (ab-i-rawan, 'flowing water'). When this cloth was put on the person, its thinness gave the body an appearance of nakedness. The merchants were not allowed to export this cloth and the governor of Malwa used to send all of it for the royal seraglio, and for the chief nobles of the Court. The wives of the Emperor and the nobles wore garments of this cloth.

Malwa was famous for its coloured cloth which it produced in abundance. It was known as Chintz and was exported to foreign countries also. Sironj was also reputed for the manufacture of

3. Tanernier, I, pp. 46-47.
4. Ibid, p. 46.
5. Ibid., pp. 46-47.
6. Ibid., pp. 36-37.
Chintz, excellent in quality which was much esteemed throughout India. It was said that the Chintzes made in Sironj did not merely look lively, but their colour would appear all the more beautiful the more they were washed. This particular quality of the cloth was attributed to the water of the river, which passes by Sironj, and specially when they were washed in the disturbed waters.

The Chintz manufactured at Sironj had a large trade within and outside India. It was exported to Persia in large quantities, where it was used by the common people for their dresses specially waistcoats for both men and women, table-cloths and bed-covers and pocket handkerchiefs. Moreover it was quite popular among the females there, and the manufacturers in Sironj made it to order to suit the taste and customs of that country. The Chintz of Sironj was also exported to Turkey also. The trade in this cloth was in the hands of the Armenian traders, who lived there, but many times European traders also arrived there to undertake business in Chintz. They were sold by corges, a corge consisting of 20 pieces. The Chintz made at Sironj were sold at from 20 to 60 rupees the corge or thereabout.

1. Mundy, II, p. 56.
2. Tavernier, I, p. 46.
3. Tavernier, I, p. 56; II, p. 4.
4. Manucci, I, p. 68
5. Tavernier, II, p. 4.
Muslin (mahmudi and sarisaf) was also fabricated in Chanderi. Sarangpur which had a fair town-house manufactured good Muslin and turban cloth. It had a great trade of all the clothings which were made. Hasilpur, in the sarkar of Mandu, also had a manufacture of Muslin. The entire white cloth produced at Dhar in Mandu was purchased by noblemen.

Malwa had also earned great reputation for the manufacture of a fine and delicate cloth which was flowered excellently and called Do-dami. The manufacture of this cloth had long been a speciality of Malwa. But it is certain that Do-dami was not manufactured in Malwa during Akbar's reign as Abul Fazl does not make mention of it. The author of Shahjahan Nama remarks that the art of manufacturing this cloth reached its perfection during the time of Shahjahan. Making reference to annual weighing ceremony of Shahjahan, the author informs that 2000 bolts of the costly and delicate Do-dami of Malwa was presented by Khani-i-Dauran, Nusrat Jang, the governor of Malwa on the above mentioned occasion in January 1638.

2. Finch, Early Travels, p. 143; Jourdain, p. 150.
Do-dami was a cloth used in summer. It was sold for Rs. 80 a piece (for one with coloured flowers) and Rs. 40/- was the cost for a plain one. This cloth was in demand by the Emperor and nobles in the summer.

During the reign of Aurangzeb the cloth factory at Chanderi manufacturing Do-dami was closed by an imperial order. But it seems that the manufacture of this cloth at other centres continued.

Thus Malwa enjoyed fame and name in textile industry and the cloth manufactured therein was in great demand in other provinces besides the capital. In fact the Chintz manufactured at Sironj swelled the economy of Malwa as it had caught large markets in foreign countries. The Do-dami of Malwa was also not lagging behind. The transparent cloth manufactured in the Subah was banned to merchants as being exportable and was only reserved for use in the Emperor's seraglio and noble's mansions. This cloth definitely would have been priced costly as its delicacy and thinness required much skilled artisans.

Above all, the textile industry of Malwa was well flourished and the towns of Malwa where cloth was manufactured also

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1. The dress of Shahjahan was fashioned from this cloth during the summer, Shahjahan Nama (Begley & Desai), p. 220.
2. Ibid.
developed as great commercial centres of cloth trade. The mer-
chants flocked in Malwa to have a deal in this trade.

**GOLD AND SILVER WORK:**

The ornaments had been an important article for female
decoration and beautification since ancient times. During the ornamens
Sultanate and the Mughal periods/generally made of gold, silver
and precious stones were used by the women of royal seraglio
and noble's families. In Malwa too the art of gold smith was
certainly developed. The paintings of Nimatnamah show women
dressed in male costumes but wearing ornaments. The bangles,
ear-rings and tops are clearly pictured. We find mention of
ornaments as Jhuma and Jhamartali mahmudshahi as ornaments pre­
sented to the women of the nobles during the marriage ceremony
of Ghias Shah of Malwa.¹

Among the ornaments Abul Fazl gives a long list of the
variety of women's ornaments. Among the head-ornaments mention
may be made of 'Sis-phul' an ornament for the head resembling
the marigold; 'Mang', worn on the parting of the hair to enhance
its beauty; 'Kot-biladar', worn on the forehead and consisting
of five bands with long centre drop; 'Sekra' (Shikhara), seven
of more strings of pearls, linked to studs and hung from the
forehead in such a manner as to conceal the face and 'Einduli'
worn on the forehead. Among the ornaments of Abul Fazl men­
tions 'Karnaphul', 'Fipalpatti', 'Balí', 'Mor-Ehanwar' and

'champakali'. Nose, likewise was richly adorned with a variety of ornaments, e.g. 'Phuli', 'Nath' and 'Laung. Among the neck ornaments 'Hans', 'Gulaband' and 'Har' were important. For the arms, wrists and fingers, likewise, there were different type of ornaments viz. 'Bazuband', 'Tad', 'Gajrah', 'Kangan', 'Churin', 'Bahu', 'Jawe' and 'Anguthi'.¹ All these ornaments were of gold and were made either plain or studded with jewels. The ornaments made of silver were presumably wore by the people of lower category than nobles. These ornaments mentioned by Abul Fazl seems to be common in Malwa among the families of nobles and local zamindars and other rich people. This naturally might have attracted the skilled gold-smiths to settle in Malwa. Utensils of gold and silver were used by the nobles and the richer class of the people.

**POTTERY AND GLAZE:**

Besides other industries in Malwa the glazed pottery industry was much developed. The work of the glazed pottery had reached a mark of high standard. But in Malwa, particularly Mandu, this industry had a large production of high standard of glazed pottery. Blue and yellow painted glazed tiles are distributed throughout the buildings of Mandu.² Percy Brown elaborately writes,

"So much of this is even now traceable that it is evident there was a flourishing industry in glazed earthenware at Mandu during the fifteenth century, and the fine colours the potters were able to produce show that they were adept at their trade. They possessed the secret formula, now apparently lost, for the preparation of a turquoise blue which for brilliancy has never been surpassed and the probability is that these craftsmen brought it with them from Multan, which again had derived it in the first instance from Persia. As Malwa on the whole prospered after the occupation of Mughals as a province of the empire, this industry of glazed pottery also seems to be enjoyed its prosperity.

MINERALS:

In the field of minerals Malwa was not lagging behind. The hilly tracts of Malwa abound in stones of various kinds and of different tints. Diamond, the most precious of all stones, was found in Malwa. Shahab-Hakim makes the mention of the territories of Ratanpur and Raipur as possessing the mines of diamonds. We come across to the reference of some other gems and precious stones as Yaqut-i-Hiramane (red), and Firoza Zamurrud (green).

2. Maasir-i-Mahmud-Shahi, p. 44.
3. Ibid., p. 59.
Marble was also available in Malwa. It was of varying hues from white to pink. The marble of yellow colour was also found in Malwa. Marble was particularly used in royal buildings.

The mines of precious stones in Malwa also led to the production of valuable articles as trays of Yaqut and cups of Firoza. Shahab Hakim also mentions that Mahmud Khalji I sent as presents, the items as a cup of Yaqut, a plate of Aqiq, a spoon of Ruby, a dish of Firoza and a basin of alabaster. This ascertains that these articles were the specialities of Malwa and definitely were of high repute.

There was a silver mine at Joga in the sarkar territory of Handia. The silver obtained from this must have consumed in the mints uttering silver coin. It was also used in making ornaments, utensils and decorative pieces.

**MINTS:**

During the Sultanate of Malwa there was only a single mint for the entire Kingdom at Shadiabad Mandu. But under Akbar the number of mints increased in Malwa. Ujjain was the only mint in Malwa which uttered coins in all the three metals, i.e., gold, silver and copper. All silver mints of 1595 also

1. Ibid.
uttered copper. In Malwa the mints which issued copper coins only were Sironj, Sarangpur and Mandu. The copper mint at Sironj was subsequently abolished after Akbar.¹

MARKET:

The main feature of the market was that all sorts of goods and commodities such as cloth, grain, food stuffs, sweets, drugs, medicine, tobacco, fruits, vegetable, pan, furniture, toys etc. were on sale. In Malwa the market was organized that shops of a particular commodity were allotted fixed place. We are informed that in Ujjain, the capital of Malwa there was arrangement of separate shops for each commodity at fixed place. The Qazi of Ujjain in a dispute warned the butchers of the city not to open meat shops in between the shops for other commodities. They were asked by the Qazi to shift to the place fixed for them.²

TRADE ROUTES:

Malwa had a network of numerous roads, connecting large towns and cities, some of which had large and shady trees on both sides and mile-stones to indicate distance. Two routes forwarded northwards from Burhanpur to Agra. The shorter route of Agra crossed the river Narbada at Handia while the other crossing the Narbada at Akbarpur ran to Ujjain and then joined the other route at Duraha.³ Mundy describes the route via Handia to Duraha.⁴

1. Ain-i-Akbari, I, p. 27.
3. Chahar Gulshan, f. 136 b.
Finch describes the route via Ujjain and thus this route deviates from the route given in Chahar Gulshan, to pass through Mandu and Sarangpur.¹

The roads that passed through Malwa were military roads as well as trade routes. The industrial activities of the Subah received added impetus from these routes. Moreover, the European traders who had settled on the western coast, generally travelled by Malwa routes and thus the towns falling on these routes rose high as centres of commercial activities in the province.

**General Economic Prosperity:**

Malwa occupied great reputation for the fertility of its soil. The abundance of food grain, fruits and vegetables and specialised production of fine cloth in large quantity and other skilled industries and its towns becoming great commercial centres like Mandu, Sironj, Ujjain, Sarangpur and Chanderi, all are great evidences of the well economic prosperity of the province. The production was so large that it led to the export of many things from Malwa. General economic prosperity is also indicated by the existence of well built residential buildings in many towns of Malwa. Referring to Chanderi, Babur writes, "All the houses in Chanderi, whether of high or low are built of stone those of the chiefs being labouriously carved; those of the lower

¹ Finch, *Early Travels*, pp. 139-143; Jourdain, pp. 146-150

Pinkerton Roe, p. 6. followed the same branch route upto Mandu.
class also of stone but are not carved. They are covered in with stone-slabs instead of earthen tiles.1 Chanderi in Malwa had 14,000 stone houses.2

The towns of Malwa were flocked by the traders. The town of Sironj was inhabited by large group of traders and artisans and it had fine houses of stone and bricks.3 Ibn Battuta also praises the prosperous conditions of Chanderi and speaks of it as a big city with busy market places.4

Malwa was well prosperous during its independence as Malwa kingdom. For a century and a quarter it enjoyed the protection and patronage of the Mughals and Malwa received its due share of the prosperity which enriched the revenues of the Mughal Empire. During the first century of Mughal rule in Malwa since 1562, the province attained the height of its prosperity in the middle of the seventeenth century, the provincial revenues collected in 1654 amounted to Rs. 1,39,32,933,5 which was the highest ever exacted and recorded. In fact it was doubled to the figure given in the Ain-i-Akbari, which was Rs.60,17,1366. Malwa was also

3. Tavernier, I, p. 46; The Imperial Gazetteer Of India, Vol.XXIII, p.39.
4. Rehle, p. 166.
5. Lastur-ul-Amal in India Of Aurangzeb, pp.IX, XXXIX.
affected from the war of succession in 1658 but in 1697 the income of the province had a good figure of Rs.99,06,250.\(^1\) Malwa once again enjoyed a period of comparative peace during the reign of Aurangzeb, however in the last years of Aurangzeb Malwa was disturbed by Maratha incursions. But the province fate was still bright as in 1700 the figure of the amount of provincial revenues reached another high watermark of Rs 1,02,08,667.\(^2\)

Thus it can be said emphatically that the Subah of Malwa occupied good position economically and its revenues certainly were the strength of the Empire. During the period under review Malwa rose gradually since it became the Subah of the Mughal Empire under Akbar and reached its height of economic prosperity during the Mughal period.

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1. Manucci, II, p. 413.
2. Dastur-ul-Amal, MS.C. in India Of Aurangzeb, pp. XXXII, IX.