CHAPTER II

PROFILE OF THE RAYADRUG TOWN:

Rayadurg, a town with historical connection to the famous Vijayanagar Empire, is the headquarter of the taluk as well as the blocks, situated to the north-west, it is 96 miles away from Anantapur. Prior to 1953, the entire part of taluk was a part of Bellary district, with the formation of Andhra and the bifurcation of Bellary district, this taluk transferred to Anantapur district. Even as early as 1952 the town was supplied with electricity and a decade later it was constituted into Municipality.

The town is closer to many areas of the present Karnataka state, particularly Nelkalmuru which is less than 3 miles away as the crow flies. The demographic growth of the town is as under in the Table No.VII.

According to 1961 census Rayadurg town was classified under primary activities and industries group. In the next census it is classified under industry only referring to its specialisation as a place of industrial and commercial importance.

The three important commodities imported into the town according the census directory in 1969 are,
raw silk, yarn and groundnut respectively. And the three important commodities exported again twisted silk, cloth and tamarind. And among the three important commodities manufactured in town besides cloth and oil, is twisted silk yarn. Then, the town is known as important producer of silk cloth and sarees.

The district Gazetteer of 1971 mentions that nine out of the eleven silk twisting establishments of Anantapur district were located in Rayadurg. The present estimation indicates, ¾ silk establishing units (or silk Twisting Factories) employing about on an average 60 workers in each. Grey silk imported from Bangalore is twisted on power driven machines and reeled here. The output of each of the twisting unit is estimated to range from 10 to 15 lbs of silk per day. Each factory is suppose to employee 15 workers (as per the Gazetteer 1971) mostly women in a factory. Their average output was estimated between 10 to 15 lbs per day. The market for silk twisted and reeled at Rayadurg is said to be at Challekere, Chitradurg and Davangere in Karnataka state. The annual output is estimated to be 7 lakhs lbs and another estimate of output of silk in the town is 8000 lbs in all the factories.
Rayadurg town is extends over an area of 4.5 square miles divided into 17 wards. The geographical size of the wards is available as shown in the map, on the next page.

The density of population within the municipal area is shown in the map referred on the next page. Ward numbers 1 and 3 seemed to be ones with highest density 50,000 and above person per square kilometres.

It is found that most of the weaver community people and others, who are directly or indirectly involved in silk handloom industry, are residing in ward numbers 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17; of all these, ward number 17 seems to have contained the largest number of silk handlooms and silk twisting factories.

It is well known that a quarter of the towns' population belong to those castes and sub groups whose ancestral occupation weaving connected with textiles particularly spinning, weaving and related activities of the industry and trade.

This section of population appears to be located in the most density populated part of the town. Most of

1. The Anantapur Gazetteer of 1971 mentions that Rayadurg town extends to an area of 19.5 sq.kms.
the weaver residents are found to be located the north of 
Sri Kodandarama Swamy temple on the Bellary road. The 
two parallel roads - Tahasildar road and Obalachary road 
also constitute the weavers' locality.
RAYADRUGI TOWN

1. Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple
● Location of Silk Handlooms and Silk Factories