CHAPTER V

EVOLUTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF BANKURA

Industrialisation is one of the mostly advocated means for development of an under-developed economy. It is peculiar that, inspite of the reasonably congenial character of the district with proximity to the influence zone of Durgapur industrial belt, industrial progress has not taken place in Bankura. Even the old time industries which constituted an important segment of the district's economy dwindled with the passage of time. Of course in recent times initiatives are being taken by different developing agencies to give a boost to the industrial growth of the district.

An attempt has been made in this chapter, to analyse the growth and decay of the industries in Bankura district. This will help to find the short fall in the utilisation pattern of resources by industries and potentialities for industrial structure of the district. The analysis has been done in different phases.

1. a) Pre-independence Phase - from Mid Nineteenth Century to 1901.
   b) 1901 to 1950

2. Post-Independence Phase:
   a) 1950 - 1969
Industrial activities in Pre-Independence period:

Before the advent of the British, an outstanding feature of the Indian economy was the subsisting and self perpetuating character of its villages. The village itself consumed most of the food stuff and raw materials produced within itself, while its need for handicrafts was met by the local artisans. Bankura was always an agricultural district, but inspite of the predominance of agriculture, large varieties of other industries also flourished. Large scale industries were absent, but small scale industries have been existing since the hey days of the Malla King. Formerly the principal industries were silk and cotton weaving, with the main manufacturing centres located at Bishnupur and Sonamukhi, others were pottery making, brass and bell metal work, cutlery manufacturing, fabrication of conch shell articles, leather work, preparation of scented tobacco and production of terra cotta plaque for temple decoration. Under the liberal patronage of the Malla Kings of Bishnupur the old time artisans attained a high degree of excellence in their craftsmanship, with the decline of the Malla Raj the decay of old time industries started. The introduction of cheaper English piece goods towards the middle of the eighteen century hit the weaving industry hard, the terra cotta and tobacco suffered an eclipse for the want of patron, other handicrafts received a set back with the gradual increase in the cost of raw material.
In 1901, the various industries operating in the district used to support 15.9 per cent of the total population, while the corresponding figure for 1961 declined to 8.7 per cent. The present century has, therefore, witnessed a lamentable regression from rural industry to agriculture in the livelihood pattern of the district.

Silk weaving

Silk weaving was the most important among the old time industries of the district. In the eighteenth and last part of the nineteenth century, Bankura played an important role in the commerce of the East India Company owing to high appreciation of Bankura silk in foreign market. The most important industries were located at Bishnupur, Bankura, Rajgram, Birshingapur, Jaypur, Gopinathpur and Sonamukhi. Bishnupur enjoyed a special reputation for the manufacturing of prettily embroidered silk scarves, plain and flowered sarees and a maroon coloured cloth called Dhooppchaya. Bishnupur also works in artificial silk, imported from abroad, while Sonamukhi specialized in the manufacturing of stout silk fit for suiting, shirting. With the decay of the East India Company, the industry fell on evil days its resuscitation is an advent of recent times.
Tasar Weaving

Tasar weaving industry of Bishnupur used to be very famous but at present due to high cost of production weavers have turned to silk weaving. In 1905 there were 1000 families of Tasar weavers at Sonamukhi, 500 to 700 families at Bishnupur, 400 at Gopinathpur and Bankura town, 200 at Rajgram and 400 at Rajghat and Birshingapur, representing 10000 individuals working or capable of working in Tasar weaving. The quantity of Tasar cocoons had always been insufficient to meet the local demand, which had to be supplemented by imports from Midnapur and Chotanagpur. Due to this shortage the weavers turned to silk and cotton weaving. The decline of the industry started as early as 1905 and since then it has declined further.

Cotton Weaving

Cotton weaving has always been important in Bankura. According to the census of 1871 there were 6,685 cotton weavers in the district. During the second half of the nineteenth century the cottage craft suffered a reverse due to large imports of cheaper machine made cloth from abroad and people engaged in weaving dwindled to 4,800 in 1921. The Second World War created very good demand for handloom products, owing to contemporary scarcity of mill made cloth.
on the Indian market. This was reflected in the progress made in the subsequent years. In 1940 the number of weavers increased to 7037.

Wool Weaving

Blankets were woven in small colonies of Bhedials at Lokpur and Kenduli on the outskirts of Bankura town. The shepherd kept their own flock and produced a very coarse quality for local demand.

Lac Industry

The manufacture of lac is another old time industry of the district which was carried on extensively during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The chief seat was Bankura and Sonamukhi which alone had 75 factories in 1890 employing over 5000 person for a part of the year. Suffered severe reverse owing to competition of cheap foreign lac. The industry continued to decline, number of factories declined from 35 in 1901 to 24 in 1905, thus within the period of 16 years, the number of factories in Sonamukhi had dwindled from 75 to 26, the industry continued to decline and by 1921 there were only few factories in Khatra and Sonamukhi. In recent times efforts are being made to revive the industry.
PLATE NO 4

A BELL METAL UNIT
Conch shell industry

The principal centres of conch shell industries were Bishnupur and Bankura town. At present there are small artisans at Bishnupur, Bankura and Patrasayer engaged in the manufacture of conch shell ornaments like bangles, rings, beads, necklace etc. The raw material was supplied by merchants from Rameshwar, Tuticorin. The artisans had to pay unusually high expenses as a result the industry became less and less remunerative.

Brass and Bell Metal Industry

Brass and metal utensils and various other utensils were manufactured on a large scale in Bankura, Bishnupur, Sonamukhi, Patrasayar, Kanjakura, Ajodhya, Lakhimsagar and Madanmohanpur. The articles manufactured were water vessels with long spout (gaddu), rice bowls, tumblers etc. with intricate floral designs, seer, Dhanbati, Motapua Chickan are the other kind of bowls - Brass opital, is a mixture of zinc and copper, bell metal or kansa is obtained by fusing copper with tin and bharan is prepared by mixing copper, zinc and tin. The art of mixing is a hereditary skill which is a trade secret.

A quantity of German silver goods was also produced at Bishnupur. Bharan was known to be manufactured only in Bishnupur. In 1944, a society was formed with 282 members, the annual production was 2,00,000.
Besides these, the other important industries of relative importance were the pottery industry, the main centres were Panchmura, Rajgram, Sonamukhi, where the residents were engaged in hereditary craft of producing terracotta horses, elephants, tigers and utensils. Earth and sand are the principal raw materials.

Lantern industry was first started 80 years ago by Raichand Gorai a special variety of cheap lanterns was produced in Bishnupur. The industry was mainly in the hand of the Kolu caste who were the residents of Aisbazar, Raghunath Sayer, Gopalganj, Hazrapara, Bhadurganj and Station Road residents of Bishnupur town. In 1921 there were 55 workshops of which 50 belonged to the Kolu caste and the rest to the Karmakars. The raw material used was galvanized sheets plates, glass were and tin foils.

Bidi making used to be an important occupation. Bankura, Bishnupur, Sonamukhi and Patrasayer were the main centres. Leaf for bidi making was brought from Sambalpur and tobacco from Gujrat and Nepal. Because of the inferior quality of the local leaves it was not used. The scented amboori tobacco produced in Bishnupur was used by connoisseurs as the last word of smoking pleasure.
Dhokra Metal Craft

Dhokra metal craft was another important handicraft of the district, named after the autochthonomous tribes living in western Bankura. They are also found in western Midnapur, Orissa and Central parts of Madhya Pradesh. They are known as Dhokra Kamars. They cast solid metal objects, the process consists of fashioning a prototype model in wax which is covered up with soft clay when the clay dries up in the sum the wax is drained of leaving a cavity inside, which is then filled up with molten metal, usually brass, when the metal solidifies the earthen mould is broken and metallic model taken and chiselled and finished with necessary decoration. The Dokhras of Bankura usually cast small icon dolls, lamps, lamp stand, Dhoopstand etc. meant for ritual purpose.

Thus we see that the cottage small scale industry silently played an important role in the economy of Bankura district, in terms of production, employment and export in the middle eighteenth and nineteenth century. However, at the beginning of the next century, it was faced by threat to its growth and survival, due to introduction of cheap goods, change in the taste of buyers away from traditional products. The introduction of mechanical
and electrical power led to the rise of new industries like rice mill, oil mill and other industrial enterprises requiring cheap power.

**Post Independence Period**

At the beginning of the century, i.e. in 1901, the total population of Bankura district was 11,16,811 persons, of which 15.9% depended on cottage and small scale industries for their living. But during the next fifty years the decline of cottage and small scale industries forced many artisans to take to cultivation, and by 1951 the figure dependant on the small scale industries reduced to 8.23%. Not much development took place from 1951 to 1961, as the working population dependant on cottage and small scale industries increased to only 9.5%. But it is of significant importance that the predominance of cottage industry in the District was still unperturbed, as the percentage of cottage industry workers of the district was 5.8% as compared to 4.2% of West Bengal in 1961. The population composition of the district during 1951 and 1961 is illustrated in Figure 13A.

Although no industrial development took place in the district from 1951 to 1961, the number of employment in the registered units increased. The following table gives the increase of employment from 1951 to 1961.
FIG. 13a.

POPULATION COMPOSITION
OF BANKURA DISTRICT

1951

INDEX
- CULTIVATORS, OWNERS OF LAND & FAMILY
- CULTIVATORS OF UNOWNED LAND & FAMILY
- CULTIVATING LABOUR & FAMILY
- NON CULTIVATING OWNERS OF LAND
- MANUFACTURING, MINING, FORESTRY, FISHING
- COMMERCE
- TRANSPORT
- OTHER SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS

1961

INDEX
- OTHERS
- TRADE & COMMERCE
- CONSTRUCTION
- OTHER THAN HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY
- HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY
- MINING, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY
- TRANSPORT & STORAGE
- AGRICULTURAL LABOUR
- CULTIVATORS
### Table 5A

Increase of Industrial Workers in a decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industries</th>
<th>Employed Labours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Basic Engineering</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Other engineering</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Chemical and Rubber</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Jute goods</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cotton Cloth and other</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Food drinks and Tobacco</td>
<td>1205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Luxury items</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(excluding food &amp; clothes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Others</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus it is evident that employment in the major industries in the district increased by 1520 persons between 1951 to 1961 an increase of about these figures also affirm a very uneven distribution of employment in local industries and such lack of diversification reflects the underdeveloped nature of the district's economy.
INDUSTRIAL UNITS AND EMPLOYMENT OF BANKURA DISTRICT
1963

FIG 13b
Undoubtedly some new industrial units had developed between 1951 to 1961 as compared to 1901 - 1951. In this decade the population increased by 2.4% annually whereas the registered employment in the industries increased by 3.65% annually. The employment pattern, and the number of factory units is shown in Figure 13b and 13c (1961).

In 1966 the total registered factories in the district was 76, of which 49 were rice mills, 8 oil mills, 7 bidi factory, 1 knitting mill, 1 saw mill, 2 lac unit, 1 engineering unit and 1 spun pipe factory. These are mainly agro-based industries, which employed 3351 workers daily. The rice mill accounted for the employment of 1,617 persons on an average per day. The number of workers in the bidi factory was 944. The remaining undertaking employed in all about 790 workers daily. Of the 76 registered factories 65 were connected with processing of agricultural products in 1966. In West Bengal agro-based industries constitute only 26% of all small scale industries in the State. In Bankura it constituted 84.2% in 1966. This again highlights the dominance of agriculture in the district economy.
PLATE NO 5

A RICE HUSKING UNIT IN BANKURA.
Rice Mill

In 1964-65 there were 125 rice mills in the district, 99 were located in the sadar sub-division and the remaining 26 were in Bishnupur sub-division. The main concentrations were in Bankura town and Jhantipahari, where there were 50 and 21 mills respectively, 6 mills in Beliatore, 3 in Onda, 2 in Chatna. Most of the mills in Bankura town, Jhantipahari and Beliatore are electrified. Of the 26 rice mills at Bishnupur, 9 were at Bishnupur proper, 6 at Indas, 3 at Sonamukhi, 2 at Patrasayar. Besides the rice mills there were 26 Paddy husking machines operating all over the district.

Oil Mill

In 1966 there were 8 oil mills in the district, manufacturing edible oils other than hydrogenated oils. 5 were located in Bankura town, 2 in Bishnupur and 1 at Jhantipahari.

Pulses

There were 5 pulses mills of which 3 were in Bankura town, 2 at Beliatore.

There existed no Large Scale Industries in the district. The poor development of the mining industry was matched by non-existence of heavy industries in the district. The principal mineral raised was coal although little quantities of wolfram are reported to have been mined for
PLATE NO 6

AN OIL GHANI UNIT
sometime by a private firm near Chendapathar in Ranibandh Police Station.

There were 7 coal mines in 1961, all located in the northern part of the district mainly in Mejhia police stations. The inconsequential nature of the coal industry in Bankura is apparent from the absence of any large scale mills, like Jute Textile, Sugar etc. Of the cottage industries the most important were cotton, tasar, silk and rayon weaving, conch sheel, bidi factory, bell-metal, leather factory and lantern making.

Cotton Weaving

In 1969 there were 12,8000 looms in the district employing 33,000 workers.

In 1951, 8238 cotton weaving establishment engaged 21643 weavers, by 1964 there were 5266 registered looms and 6839 private looms in the district employing 30,000 weavers. The main centres were then located at Bankura town, Rajgram, Kanjakura, Panchmura, Bishnupur, Sonamukhi, Rajhat, Birshingapur, Madanmohanpur and Patrasayar. The main items produced were dhoti, sarees, bedsheets, lungi, napkins. with a view to placing the industry on the road to progress, the All India Handloom Board laid great stress on the formation of Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society and
in 1963 there were 96 societies with a membership of 5847. At that time 55% of the total number of active weavers had come within the co-operative fold.

Next to handloom, cotton weaving industry, the sericulture and silk industry constitute the largest cottage industry of Bankura district, centred mainly at Bishnupur and Bankura. The main item of production are silk sarees of ornamental designs, Tasar shirtings, Matka and various other fabrics. Silk looms are mostly a throw shuttle type which is considered more suitable for weaving delicate yarns. Finished products are sold all over India through normal trade channels, co-operative society and government agencies. The Bankura Resham Shilpa Samabaya Sangha plays an important role in the development of silk industry at Bankura. According to a survey undertaken in 1960-62, by the Directorate of Industries, West Bengal, there were altogether 790 units working in the district, 112 were concerned with rearing of silk cocoons, employing 231 persons, 23 were engaged in the reeling of silk employing 24 persons and 655 were working in connection with silk weaving providing employment to 2407 persons. The government also encouraged the production of art silk and the total number of such organisations in the district in 1963 was 8 with a membership of 338 persons.
A portion of the raw material was produced locally, supply of high quality yarn are obtained from Malda, Murshidabad and parts of Birbhum. Silk worms were reared and silk was spun in many villages in the district. In 1966 there were 180 acres of land under mulberry cultivation, but in the laterite soils of Bankura, yield did not exceed more than 6000 lbs per acre, and arrangements for irrigating the mulberry fields were absent. The process of silk yarn has undergone a change, it started with winding of yarn (better known as re-hanking) on different latais (bamboo made spindles) according to 'various deniers' a term which denotes the degree of fineness of silk yarns, the hanks are then subjected to boiling in a caustic soda solution for an hour for bleaching, thereafter washed, dried, rewinded, stratched, warped and then fixed to the looms and ready for weaving. Previously indigenous ingredients like harritoki indigo, tamarind etc. were used for drying silk yarn.

Tasar Weaving

Once a famous industry of Bankura, started dwindling due to the high cost of production, weavers have turned to silk weaving, as the weavers say that "cost of turning a Tasar saree is equal to a silk saree and people prefer silk sarees". By 1951 the total number of tasar establishment in the district was only 65 employing 231 persons.
Just as any other industries the sericulture and silk industries have problems regarding finance, suitable marketing arrangements and production technique. The basic problem is high cost of production due to inferior race of silk worm being reared in the district. Since Bankura is hard pressed for food supplies, uneconomic production of silk has tended to decrease acreage under mulberry. While on the one hand there is shortage of mulberry supply on account of competition from food crops, on the other hand the serious competition from substitutes of pure silk is becoming increasingly effective. As a result many of the silk weavers of Bishnupur turned to rayon weaving as they found that rayon goods could be produced cheaply and quickly. With the increasing demand for rayon products in the country the artisans found the calling remunerative although they had to import yarns from Japan and Italy.

Handicrafts

The district has a long tradition of handicraft products in a number of areas, particularly since the region of the Malla dynasty (1586 - 1805 A.D.). But it witnessed a high rate of drift of the village artisans from their respective areas of skill to agriculture. The magnitude of this drift during the last 80 years is evident
PLATE NO 7

CONCH SHELL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING UNIT
In 1901 7.8% of the population used to depend on handicraft for their livelihood, the corresponding percentage for the year 1981 is only 1. A wide range of handicraft products are produced by the artisans spread over all the blocks. But a glance at the economic conditions of the artisans shows that this section of population cannot survive any longer by earning their livelihood from their traditional occupation.

The Conch Shell Industry

With the advent of time the industry is becoming less remunerative. Inadequate supply and high prices of raw materials followed by fall in demand are the problems resulting in the decay of the industry. In 1969 there were only 600 artisans engaged in this industry and the annual production was only Rs. 7.2 lakh.

Bell Metal and Brass Utensil Industry

The district is the main centre of the industry. In 1969 in 800 units, 32000 workers were employed. Raw materials (tin, copper, zinc) were brought from outside. The artisan also remoulds the old utensils to make new ones. The industry faces serious problems in the face of competition from steel, aluminium and plastic.
Lantern Making

At present there are 170 units engaged in the manufacturing of lantern, engaging 800 workers. A special type of lantern is extensively manufactured and has gained reputation for its durability and economy in respect of oil consumption and price. This lantern of Bankura district found wide market in the rural areas of Midnapur, Burdwan, Birbhum, Purulia, it is also exported to Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh and Mathura in Uttar Pradesh. The condition of the industry is satisfactory owing to the heavy off-take of its products.

Wood carving/Stone carving/Terra-cotta

Wood carving was mainly done in the forest based areas whereas stone carving is famous in Susunia Hill areas. Terra-cotta toys of Bankura and decorative horses and elephants from Panchmura and Sendra are famous, and has good market all over India and abroad. 150 employers of Panchmura manufacture goods worth Rs. 7200 a year. But their main drawbacks are poor quality and durability. They require technical assistance for improvement.

Dokra

Dokra is the famous handicraft of Bankura. It has also market potential in and outside the district and state for its artistic value. The mass attraction item include
PLATE NO 8

A SAWMILL UNIT
flower-vase, dhoopdhani etc. Due to high cost of living artisans are now turning to alternative source of income to maintain their family, causing inadequate attention required for safe guarding the craft.

Bell Mala

About 1700 artisans comprising of male, female and children were directly or indirectly involved in the manufacturing of bell mala. In most of the families this is a secondary source of income. Women and children collect wood apple from the forest and dry then for further processing. The mala is generally sold in the tourist centres and also finds market in Nabadwip, Bihar, Uttar-Pradesh etc. The principal places of concentration are Joypur, Bishnupur, Borjora, Gangajalghati, Taldangra, Simlapal, Onda etc.

Bidi Making

This household industry is concentrated in Kotulpur, Bankura I & II, Barjora, Indus, and Gangajalghati. As the local leaf is of inferior quality, leaf and tobacco is imported from outside. The price hike of the raw material and increase intakes has posed a serious threat to the surviving of the industry. Most of the units are closing down and the owners are encouraging the workers to make bidi in their home in return of low wages. To save this industry the Government must reduce the tax on tobacco and supply ample betel leaf for bidi making.
Bamboo and leaf products

A large number of families are partially engaged in this type of trade, manufacturing varieties of articles namely, jhuri, kula, talai pankha etc. However, it is a secondary source of income. The craft families account for 3500 members, spread over a number of blocks in the district. The items do not get any special type of assistance for which they are to face marketing problems.

Besides these various other small scale industry had cropped up in the district during 1960's, of which mention may be made of:

Leather works

In 1969 there were 85 establishment in Bankura district, manufacturing leather and leather products of which 72 were located in the rural areas. The cobblers at Bankura produce among other art, high quality boots and shoes of various designs, which find ready market because of their cheapness. Raw material is brought from Calcutta. Inspite of the availability of huge quantity of raw skin, the absence of a tanning factory the skins cannot be used, to develop the leather factory, the development of tanning factory is essential.
Brick Manufacturing

Brick manufacturing was carried out in primitive form in many blocks of the district. The soil of Bishnupur and Simlapal is ideal for manufacturing of brick. Semi-mechanised brick factories if installed here could help to meet the local demand.

Stone quarrying

There is a huge deposit of gravel and quartz balast in Bankura district. These can be used for constructing roads and building, there were only 8 stone quarry, where the stones are crushed into 3 forms, viz., boulder, balast and chips.

Bakery

There were 15 bakeries, but one of them were mechanised, as the demand for the product is rising, the probabilities of installing mechanised bakery factory are high in Bishnupur, Sonamukhi and Borjora.

Realising the importance and key role of small scale industries in a developing country like India, systematic organisation of the rural industries was taken up by Directorate of Industries, West Bengal, and Khadi and Village Industry Board, ever since the first five year plan.

The First Five Year Plan highlighted the role of cottage and small scale industries in the national economy.
In the Second Five Year Plan the actual position and poten­
tialities was assessed. In the Third Five Year Plan many of the cottage and small scale industries dispersed over the district were reorganised with financial aid provided under the Bengal State Aid Act, 1931. During the Third Plan, several schemes were in operation for imparting train­ing to the sons of artisans through production-cum-training centres.

The DIC also provided financial assistance to diffe­rent technical institutions, state assistance to weavers co-operatives, improved appliances and semi-automatic looms were supplied to a number of weavers co-operative societies to strengthen the existing industries of the district.

The Bengal State Aid to Ind Act 1931 provided loan to deserving candidates against securities prescribed under the act, but the poor artisans were not in a position to offer the prescribed securities.

Between 1957 - 1958 to 1964 - 1965 a total sum of Rs. 3,43,845 was disbursed as industrial loan under the state aid to numerous craftsmen and other industrial workers in the district.

In the 1970's inspite of efforts being made few number of factories grew up. In 1977 emphasis was stressed on commerce oriented factories in comparison to production oriented factories. The total number of factories increased to 83 in 1979.
If we examine the trend of industrial activities in the district we find a little improvement since 1979-80. The following table provides an industry-wise break-up with corresponding employment of new units set up between 1979 to 1983.

**Table 5B**

Industry-wise break-up with corresponding employment of new units set up during 1979 to 1983.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Unit</th>
<th>1979-80</th>
<th>1980-81</th>
<th>1981-82</th>
<th>1982-83</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agro-based</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest based</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile based</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather based</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical based</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering based</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building material based</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>83</strong></td>
<td><strong>993</strong></td>
<td><strong>164</strong></td>
<td><strong>870</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: DIC Bankura.*
The above table reveals that 656 number of new units have been set up during 1979 to 1983, the trend has become more and more satisfactory, as more and more units have come up since 1979-80, when it was only 83. In 1982-83 as many as 219 new units were set up against 190 in 1981-82, and 164 in 1980-81. The employment participation has increased from 993 persons to 3422.

Manufacturing of agricultural implements leads the agro-based industries with 71 units scattered throughout the district. Borjora and Gangajalghati blocks have the highest number of units with 18 and 20 respectively.

Rau1 crop accounts for about 85% of the total net cropped area. It may be clear that the major crop processing industries of the district are rice, oil and flour mill. The next in importance is tobacco processing which mainly consists of bidi making. Sugar cane and cotton processing are comparatively less. The prospect of sugar-cane processing units particularly of sugar gur, and khand-sari are better in the district. While cotton based industries are dwindling in recent years chiefly due to raw material scarcity.
Table 5C

Agro-based industries of Bankura District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Industry</th>
<th>No. of existing units</th>
<th>Capacity per million</th>
<th>No. of person employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice Mill</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>450+15 (Casual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Mill</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>223+67 (Casual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Processing Unit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco processing Unit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Storages</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>73</strong></td>
<td><strong>107</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Directorate of Small Scale Industries, Government of West Bengal.

Thus from the distribution of units in the district, it becomes clear that although oil mills are comparatively more in number, the persons employed in rice milling industries are more in Bankura absorbing about 52% of the total employed person. But it is also heartening to note that the number of rice mills has decreased from 49 in 1969 to 31 in 1982, to 24 in 1988. Thus modernisation of rice mills which has better prospects should be done.
The processing of oilseeds is an important sector which includes extraction of oil from a wide range of crops, i.e. rapeseed, mustard, groundnut, seasum flower, mahua etc. In view of the edible oil crisis this source is expected to yield a good quantity of oil. Extraction of rice bran has not yet become popular in West Bengal because of lack of modernisation of rice mills.

There are no units based on livestock resources in Bankura. Hides and skins and bones available in the district are sent out specially to Calcutta for further processing.

The mineral-based units of the small scale sector in the district are unorganised and have not kept pace with the changing pattern of technology to capture the competitive markets. Tile making is the pride of Saltora block with 70 units of 76 units of the district. Brick building is another item of prominence having 38 units with large number in Bankura, Borjora, Sonamukhi, Onda and Bishnupur.

Pottery items consist mainly of pots, pitcher tumblers, plates (Taldangra, Sonamukhi), terra-cotta horses, elephants, tigers are also made. Stone crushing activities are carried on in 7 units in Bankura, Borjora, Saltora and Indpur blocks. 14 Coke briquette units, a large number of which is situated at Borjora, Bankura and Bishnupur. Lime is manufactured in 12 units, a large number of which is situated in Onda. Cement
products of different types are manufactured in 18 units of the district.

Chemical industry in the district is mainly composed of printing (17 units) Tyre retreading (6 units) soap (3 units) paints and varnish (2 units) in candle etc.

Engineering units consist of manufacturing steel furniture, gates and grills, repairing and servicing, automobile repairing etc. However, there is one re-rolling mill at Beliatore and one C.I. casting unit at Chatna. The other engineering units, though of little importance, mainly located at Borjora, Bankura, Sonamukhi and Bishnupur.

Bread, Biscuit and confectionaries are manufactured extensively in many parts of the district mainly in urban centres of the district. As per DIC estimate there are about 32 numbers of small scale units meeting the demand.

In the next decade i.e. in the 1980's efforts were made by the Central and State Government to boost up the cottage and small scale industry and the Khadi and Village industries. As a result many new units opened up. The number and corresponding employment is given in the following table.
Table 5D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of New Units and corresponding employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cottage &amp; SSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khadi and Village Industry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DIC, Bankura

| Total registered Small scale industries | 1984-85 | 1985-86 | 1986-87 |
|                                       |         |         |         |
|                                       | 440     | 457     | 686     |

Total till March 1987 - 3542

Source: DIC Bankura

Of the new industries that grew up in the decade of 1980's mention may be made of the improved mechanised oven in Panchmura in Bankura block. This has boosted the pottery industry and as a result a pottery complex has grown up in Panchmura.
The spinning mill (partially constructed) in Hatasuria in Borjora Police Station for cotton production. The estimated cost in Rs. 12 crores. A 45 lakh rupees pipeline to supply water to the mill is under construction. When fully completed it will be able to supply the required thread to the weavers. Moreover, it will provide employment to 2000 workers.

In Ghutgoria (Borjora) with the help of skillful artisans and modern technology a fish hook making industry has been set up. It is producing advanced fish hooks (The details are dealt with in the next chapter).

In the conclusion a comparative analysis is made between Bankura and West Bengal and also with a few other districts, in respect to the growth of the factories from 1960 to 1986.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>No. of Factories</th>
<th>1986</th>
<th>1960-86</th>
<th>1960-80</th>
<th>1980-86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murshidabad</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.14</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7.14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purulia</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>116.94</td>
<td>-15.25</td>
<td>-2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankura</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>28.81</td>
<td>11.86</td>
<td>15.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birbhum</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>16.16</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>10.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooch Bihar</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>38.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burdwan</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>152.38</td>
<td>94.17</td>
<td>29.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midnapur</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>24.75</td>
<td>-8.91</td>
<td>36.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howrah</td>
<td>1774</td>
<td>114.76</td>
<td>68.76</td>
<td>27.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>8064</td>
<td>97.01</td>
<td>56.87</td>
<td>25.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bankura district falls among the seven most underdeveloped district of West Bengal, in respect to industrial development. From the above table it can be analysed that its condition is not as precarious as that of Murshidabad, Cooch Bihar and Purulia. The industrial development of Bankura district is at par with Birbhum district, as regard to industrial growth, the rate is higher than Birbhum, Midnapur.
But when compared with the State level the growth rate of the district is far behind West Bengal, and also far behind the developed districts of Burdwan and Howrah. But if we follow the industrial growth rate of the district separately, it will be seen that the growth rate has been rapid. In 20 years (1960 - 80) the growth rate was 11.86% whereas in the 6 years (1980 - 1986) growth rate was 15.15%.

Thus we see that the industrial sector in Bankura district, mainly the small scale and cottage industry, which bubbled with life in the nineteenth century was in the face of decay in the first half of the twentieth century. It was facing decadence through two processes (1) competition from modern industries, (2) change in traditional pattern of demand.

Systematic re-organisation of these rural industries was taken up by the Directorate of industries and Khadi and Village industry broad, to resusciate the existing industries and the establishment of new ones. Hence some progress was seen during the 1980's. But even then the growth rate of the industry has not been high enough to absorb the artisans as it happened in Western Europe after the industrial revolution. As a result the artisans have no other alternative but to look for employment in agriculture and this accounts for large percentage increase of agricultural labourers and hence pressure on land.