CHAPTER - I

JALPAIGURI DISTRICT : SOME BASIC FACTS

Location
The district of Jalpaiguri lies in the Jalpaiguri division of West Bengal between 26° 16' and 27° 0' north latitude and between 88° 4' and 89° 53' east longitude with an area encompassing about 6,245 sq.km. The shape of the district is an irregular rectangle lying lengthwise east and west. Probably the name 'Jalpaiguri' is derived from Jalpai or Olive tree which abounded the principal town and 'Guri' means place, thereby it means the place of olive trees. Inhabitants of the district according to 1981 census are 2207037 persons of which 52.31% is male and 47.69% female. In terms of population it ranks 11th amongst the 16 districts of West Bengal, and area wise it is 5th in position. (Fig.No.1)

Boundaries
The district of Jalpaiguri is bounded in the north and west by the district of Darjeeling (W.B) and Bhutan, on the South by the district of Rangpur (Bangladesh) and the district of Cooch Behar (W.B.) on the east by Assam. The river Sankosh separates the district of Jalpaiguri from Assam.

History
The area of the district was formerly a part of Bhutan till the middle of the 19th Century. In 1869 the district of Jalpaiguri as an administrative unit came into being with the merger of the Western Duars of Bhutan with Jalpaiguri Sub-division of Rangpur (Bangladesh). The Western Duars consisted mainly of the
Location Map
JALPAIGURI DISTRICT

DARJEELING
88°30'
89°

SILIGURI
10 0 25 Km

BANGLADESH

JALPAIGURI

MAINAGURI

DHUPGURI

Tota

ALIPURDUAR

COOCHBEHAR

ASSAM

BHUTAN

WEST BENGAL

(Fig. 1)
tracts of low land lying at the foot of the Himalaya mountains between the Tista and Sankosh river. The term 'Dooars' means gate or passes to enter the Himalayas.

Sub-Divisions

The district has two sub-divisions, namely Sadar or Jalpaiguri and Alipur Duars with their headquarters at Jalpaiguri and Alipur Duars. Being the headquarter of the district, Sadar Sub-division comprises of the police stations of Jalpaiguri, Rajgunj, Maynaguri, Nagrakata, Dhubgunj, Mal and Mitiali, the Alipur Duars Sub-division consists of the police stations of Madarihat, Birpara, Falakata, Kalchini, Alipur Duars and Kumargram.

To-day the district possess eleven towns, 14% of the total population living in towns. The district shows a tremendous increase of urban population within a few decades. Of those towns only two viz. Jalpaiguri and Alipur Duars are Municipal towns the rest are non-municipal towns.

Topography

The district comprises of two well defined tracts. The tract lies east of Tista known as Western Duars or Bhutan Duars, which is a flat level strip of country, averaging about 22 miles in width, running first along with foot of the Kalimpong hills and then along the Bhutan hills. The main characteristics of the Western Duars are the numerous rivers and hill streams which intersect the region in every direction and the large tracts of Sal forests and heavy grass and read jungle.
interspersed with wild cardamom. Patches of dense and luxuriant tracts still remain, specially along the banks of rivers and steams. (Fig.2)

The Western boundary of the district has been provided by the Mahananda while the eastern boundary by the Sankosh river. The place West of Tista presents a slightly undulating expanse of level paddy fields and scrub-jungle, broken only by the groves of bamboos, betelnut, palm and fruit trees. There are about four forest divisions within the district which comprises of most valuable Sal forests. The entire country, except for intervals of patches of ordinary cultivation, is studded with tea gardens all over the tea bushes, constitute almost a thick carpet on the soil, shaded by Shade trees.

The important tract of tea in N & India is known as the Duars and Terai. This comprises a narrow stip of land immediately to the South of the Himalayan foothills. A number of rivers flow down those hills, some of them being the swiftest in India, and the deposits left by them in the past have formed the Tea Soils. There is a close connection between the geological nature of the hills immediately of the North and the soils of the districts below it.

A typical piedmont plain or the alluvial fan surface extended lying along the foothills of Himalaya is known as Terai and the Duars, the general elevation of this region is over 250'. The Duars which means doorway to the mountain,
Green pastures

Flowing rivulet with boulders
is actually an area included in the Terai. A major part of this place is built up of debris washed down from the Himalayan slopes. The immense load of materials carried down by the streams are heaped up as soon the streams descend down to the plain. Erosion and deposition are repeated here every year. A general southerly slope of 2-3 feet per mile with a pronounced tilt to the east is the characteristic feature of the landscape where the rivers come down from the hills, huge semi-circular fans are formed by the deposition of boulders and coarser soil particles. These along with many braided streams have built this broad piedmont alluvial plain of the Himalayan foot hills, here sub Himalayan Zone is missing, and the lower Himalaya rises abruptly from the plains. To the north of central and eastern duars, lies the Dolomite rocks of the Buxa series. Here the limestone tufa is found in many scattered places in the foothills near this region. The alkaline deposits periodically left behind by some of the rivers flowing down from such places have a special bearing in the case of tea. In this tract the soil is only from 3 to 4 feet deep with a sub-stratum of gravel and shingle, containing the valuable red and top soil which is the life of the tea plant. In dry season the beds of some rivers and streams, especially the Pana river or the Dima river in Kalchini Police station for some miles after leaving the hills, are dry, the water re-appearing further down.
Rivers

Numerous rivers are flowing through the district from North-South directions. These rivers mostly originate from Sikkim, Bhutan and Darjeeling hills. The river Torsa which is the single river come down from Tibet. These rivers of this region can be divided into two categories such as Brahmaputra river system and the Ganga river system. There are rivers namely, Tista (with all its tributaries), Jaldhaka, Torsa, Kaljani, Raidak and Sankosh are under the influence of the Brahmaputra. Mahananda with its Tributaries are under the influence of Ganga river system. The name of the main rivers and their tributaries are Tista, Karala, Dudyya, Mujnai, Torsa, Kaljani, Alaikuri, Dima, Raidak, Sankosh, Jaldhaka, etc. There is a mineral spring situated in Buxa.

Floods

The district of Jalpaiguri is an extensively flood prone region. The reasons are the heavy rainfall and secondly the large catchment area of the lower Himalayas, and thirdly the absence of a gentle gradient of slope which checks the water flowing down by these rivers and their tributaries. Another factor is that there has been large scale deforestation in the upper reaches of Bhutan hills and the other hilly regions of the North. Encroachment on forest lands and gradual increase of Jhum cultivation on steep slopes, extensive grazing of cattle etc. are aggravating landslips, landalides and surface erosion. Ultimately these
debris are carried down by the rivers and deposited in the river beds. The gradual upliftment of river beds have resulted widening of the channels and formation of shoals in the middle. The wipping away of high river bank and subsequent overflow of banks even at low water level virtually left the course abandoned and the water diverted through the neighbouring deep water channel. For instance, Tista used to flow into the Ganges. Previously, during 1787 there had been a devastating flood when Tista changed its course deserted its channel and joined into the Brahmaputra through an ancient channel. In consequence of heavy local rainfall in hills rivers often change their courses. The worst affected area by flood is Jalpaiguri Town. As the devastating flood is confined within Tista basin Jalpaiguri town has become the victim many times.

Minerals
Adjacent to Bhutan, a small amount of Gondwana rocks are to be found in the Jayanti region. A band consisting of about 100 meter thick sandstone has been found with graphitic coal, squeezed between Buxa dolomite and Daling quartzite near Jayanti river. Another and is found which is about 7 km. long and the maximum width of 400 meter near Turturi river section.

The most important mineral deposit in the area is dolomite. Dolomite is found in the dolomitic limestone bands in the Buxa, Duars and also all along in the hill range from near Lapchaco to Raidak. Except few pockets calcite rock is pure
dolomite. The rivers of this region also carried down innumerable large boulders of dolomite in the plains in the rainy seasons. Thus materials are supplied by the nature. The lime obtained from dolomite is of good quality.

Climate

The climate of the district is characterised by heat, humidity and heavy precipitation, which falls in the Am type of Koppen's classification. Just after summer the monsoon winds rushed from the Bay of Bengal sweep along Tista valley, causing vigorous downpour in their wake. Here the Monsoon dashed with full vigour on the foothills in a north westerly direction producing over 640 cm of rainfall at the foothills of Kalimpong, round about Mal, where some of the most productive Duars tea gardens are situated.

Rainfall

The seasons here follow generally the course of those of other districts in plains but owing to its proximity to the hills, the rainfall is much heavier and the temperature is rarely excessive. November, December and January are the driest months, with severe coldness, even in this period some rainfall occurs. In consequence of this heavy and widespread rainfall the district never presents a dried-up appearance but is always green and the growth of vegetation is most luxuriant. The early cold weather months are delightful, the atmosphere is clear and fine views of the snow peaks are
RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE
JALPAIGURI DISTRICT

- Temperature in °C
- Rainfall in mm
seen; in January and February it is colder and there are often slight mists, by the end of March it begins to get warmer, and is very hot in April, when the rainfall is light in that month. In May the average rainfall is about 30 cm and the month is usually comparatively cool; the rains are very heavy in June, July and August and the atmosphere is saturated with moisture. Annual average rainfall is 3120 millimetre, with a maximum temperature of 37.0°C and minimum of 5.5°C in average (Fig.3).

**Forest**

The most interesting feature of the forests of Jalpaiguri is the tall and thick expansion of valuable Sal forest. Other valuable timber are also grown in plenty. The best quality of Sal forests exist in this district in India. About 28% of the total area of the district is covered by forest of which only 6% of area of the forests lies in the hills and the rest are in plains. The vast portion of the forest area of the district is administered as reserve forest by the forest departments. Bulk of the timber obtained from these forests are used for constructional purposes, rest are used as furniture wood, pulpwood, match box making and various other purposes (Fig.4).

**Population**

Different types of people inhabit in this district, both in the hills and in the plains. Before the British regime it was the home of many tribes viz., Totas, Bodos, Mech, Garo, Rabha, Koch, Bhutias and the Rajbanshis. Hindu, Muslims and
Christians from all over India settled down in this district.

The percentage of scheduled caste population inhabiting the district of Jalpaiguri comprises of 31 percent of its total population. In the state of West Bengal the average percentage of schedule castes are 26.10 percent of the total population while scheduled tribes constitute 5.88 percent of the total population of the State. Proportion of schedule caste & tribes of Jalpaiguri district is higher than the State average.

**Occupational structure**

Out of the total population of 17.50 lakhs according to 1971 census, 5.45 lakhs are workers and 12.05 lakhs are non-workers. As for workers, persons engaged in economic activities irrespective of their income and hours of productive work are included, under-employed as also those affected by seasonal and disguised unemployment. This might be attributed largely to the absence of adequate employment opportunities in the industrial sector and lack of full time employment throughout the year in agricultural operations due to the slow induction of improved technology and low intensity of cropping. In Jalpaiguri District about 355 persons per thousand population are employed as workers according to 1971 census (Fig.5). The labour participation ratio in the district is quite high and the level of employment is better than the state average. In the state, as a whole, there are about 284
### TABLE - I
Occupational Structure of Jalpaiguri District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Police Station</th>
<th>Area in Sq.Km.</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Total Workers</th>
<th>Cultivators</th>
<th>Agricultural Labour</th>
<th>Live stock Fishing, Forestry, Mining, etc.</th>
<th>Manufacturing Industries</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Trade and Commerce</th>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Other Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rajgunj</td>
<td>636.6</td>
<td>128744</td>
<td>37516</td>
<td>18235</td>
<td>5030</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>2268</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>2474</td>
<td>4269</td>
<td>2951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jalpaiguri</td>
<td>503.0</td>
<td>217410</td>
<td>63132</td>
<td>30149</td>
<td>6158</td>
<td>4030</td>
<td>3986</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>5392</td>
<td>2762</td>
<td>10055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mal</td>
<td>543.6</td>
<td>166142</td>
<td>54638</td>
<td>15404</td>
<td>5444</td>
<td>23630</td>
<td>2372</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>2410</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>3026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mitali</td>
<td>206.2</td>
<td>61045</td>
<td>22846</td>
<td>2819</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>16095</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>1178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Maynaguri</td>
<td>646.2</td>
<td>159764</td>
<td>46116</td>
<td>30622</td>
<td>7037</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>1705</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>3188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nagrukata</td>
<td>276.4</td>
<td>66002</td>
<td>22259</td>
<td>4471</td>
<td>1595</td>
<td>14209</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dhupguri</td>
<td>561.5</td>
<td>216330</td>
<td>70258</td>
<td>28968</td>
<td>5518</td>
<td>23691</td>
<td>2760</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>3423</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>4934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Birpara</td>
<td>190.8</td>
<td>57942</td>
<td>21125</td>
<td>2476</td>
<td>1869</td>
<td>12999</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>1616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Falakata</td>
<td>317.5</td>
<td>30529</td>
<td>38256</td>
<td>22908</td>
<td>4566</td>
<td>4761</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>2492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Madarihat</td>
<td>189.7</td>
<td>42807</td>
<td>14079</td>
<td>5953</td>
<td>1187</td>
<td>5533</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Alipurduar</td>
<td>693.5</td>
<td>271766</td>
<td>79037</td>
<td>36238</td>
<td>10441</td>
<td>8506</td>
<td>4316</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>6168</td>
<td>5799</td>
<td>6831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kalchini</td>
<td>892.0</td>
<td>134467</td>
<td>46316</td>
<td>5693</td>
<td>3010</td>
<td>28920</td>
<td>1624</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>4033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kumaragram</td>
<td>504.0</td>
<td>97211</td>
<td>29108</td>
<td>12576</td>
<td>3059</td>
<td>9365</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>1313</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>1386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td>6245.0</td>
<td>1750159</td>
<td>544686</td>
<td>216712</td>
<td>55694</td>
<td>153678</td>
<td>23407</td>
<td>3191</td>
<td>29768</td>
<td>18949</td>
<td>43089</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India 1971.
persons per thousand population, are categorised as workers. In respect of labour participation, Jalpaiguri District occupies a higher position among all the districts barring Darjeeling and Calcutta.

**Primary Activities**

The alluvial soil with which the greater part of the district is covered is very fertile. In the West of the river Tista, a superior variety of jute is grown, fine rice and sugarcane are also produced here. In the low lands throughout Dooars, coarse rice and jute grow abundantly and between the Tista and Torsa rivers very fine type of tobacco is produced.

Among 5,44,686 persons of total workers, 78.11% are involved in agricultural pursuits. Number of agricultural workers is maximum in Alipur Duars being 17.04% against the whole of the district, Nagrakata Police Station due to its dense forest cover and sandy soil offers very little scope for agricultural development and has only 0.39% of agricultural workers. Police Stations of Jalpaiguri, Maynaguri, Dhubguri, being situated on the low lying flood plains between Tista and Torsa have better scope for agricultural development where the percentages of agricultural workers are 14.15%, 14.39%, 13.60% respectively. While the other Police Stations Rajgunj has 8.56%, Mal 7.25%, Falakata 10.75%, of agricultural population, the rest of the Police stations have very little percentage of agricultural labourers e.g. Metiali 3.2%, Birpara 1.16%, Maderihat 2.79%, Kalchini 2.77% and Kumargram 5.80%.
TABLE - II
Percentage of Labour engaged in different activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of the Police Station</th>
<th>Primary activities %</th>
<th>Secondary %</th>
<th>Tertiary %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rajgunj</td>
<td>66.96</td>
<td>6.11</td>
<td>28.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Jalpaiguri</td>
<td>63.99</td>
<td>6.32</td>
<td>29.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mal</td>
<td>81.41</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>14.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mitiali</td>
<td>86.20</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>9.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Maynaguri</td>
<td>82.26</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>14.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Nagrakata</td>
<td>22.69</td>
<td>42.31</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dhupguri</td>
<td>82.80</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>13.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Birpara</td>
<td>82.10</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>14.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Falakata</td>
<td>84.26</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>12.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Madarihat</td>
<td>90.00</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>8.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Alipur Duar</td>
<td>69.82</td>
<td>5.64</td>
<td>24.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Kelchini</td>
<td>81.66</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>14.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Kumargram</td>
<td>85.88</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>11.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compiled from Census 1971 - Jalpaiguri.

Piggery and poultry farming are carried on by farmers on a smallscales as a supplementary source of income. There is considerable scope for dairy development through the introduction of cross-breeding programme with provision of necessary infrastructural facilities and supporting services. Similarly, poultry farming can also be introduced by a large number of small farmers with the support of small bank finance.

Poultry

According to the field observers of the Lead Bank survey conducted in 1976, the demand of egg and flesh is increasing day by day. The poorer section of the people very often maintain poultry as a subsidiary occupation. It is also found that the
farmers rear poultry bird in their residence with only a few number of birds. In view of the existing practice, the lead bank survey proposed to set up 50 units of poultry with 75 birds each within a course of 3 years. The economics of 75 birds poultry farm is quite encouraging and works out to be reasonably profitable after meeting the recurring expenditure and the payment of bank loan.

Fishery:
The lead bank survey observed that Jalpaiguri District was suffering acute crisis of fish. Major portion of the fish in the district are imported from outside. The field surveyors felt that the district has a potentiability for the development of pisciculture which was not properly exploited. Therefore much emphasis has been laid on the development of pisciculture. Moreover ARDC has approved of a scheme of fish farming involving Rs. 17.86 lacs in the district. The lead bank survey has proposed to set up 411 units of fishery within a course of three years.

Piggery:
The census report of 1971 reveals that schedule caste and schedule tribes constitute 56% of the total population which was 17.5 lacs. The tribals are very fond of pork and rear the pigs in their own traditional way. The field surveyors found that the rearing of pigs was a good subsidiary occupation specially in and around tea gardens. As the pigs are reared in a conventional way, the rural people allow their pigs on garbage to feed for themselves. In view of that much attention was not
paid to the cost factor in calculating the economics of piggery unit. There is good demand of pork in tea garden areas. Therefore the marketing of pork will not be a problem. The lead bank survey, therefore, suggested to set up 150 units of piggery in the district, taking 4 weaner pigs in one unit. The fixed cost and the recurring expenditure for fattening 4 weaner pigs will be Rs. 620 and the approximate profit will be Rs. 1280/-.

Goatery

So goes the saying that goat is the poorman's cow. The rearing of goats involve lesser amount of cost but the profits are substantial. It is a most common and profitable occupation for the landless labourers. In order to give financial support to the weakest of the weaker community, the lead bank report proposed to set up 195 goatery units in the district, taking 1 buck and 5 she goats in one unit. In rural areas, farmers allow goats on grazing ground to feed. Hence, the loan for cost of feed was not recommended. The economics of per unit goatery works out to be Rs. 1500/- including capital cost and recurring expenditure and yielding a net profit of Rs. 950/-.

Secondary Activities

Apart from tea, there is no other large scale industry in this district. The industry plays the key-role in the economy of the district. At present there are 150 tea gardens with 59,485 hectares of land under the cultivation of tea. The tea
gardens provided employment to a large number of male and specially the female workers, and is estimated at 1.33 lakhs which is about 19% of the total cultivating workers of the district. Mention should be made that the forests which occupy more than one-fourth of the district are at present in various stages of commercial exploitation, but the potential of the development of forest resources for the economy has not yet been properly exploited.

**TABLE - III**

Percentage of Manufacturing Workers to total workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Police Station</th>
<th>Total workers</th>
<th>Total manufacturing workers</th>
<th>Percentage of Manufacturing workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rajgunj</td>
<td>37,516</td>
<td>2288</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Jalpaiguri</td>
<td>63,132</td>
<td>3986</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mal</td>
<td>54,638</td>
<td>2372</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mitali</td>
<td>22,846</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Maynaguri</td>
<td>46,116</td>
<td>1705</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Nagrajata</td>
<td>4,627</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dhupguri</td>
<td>70,258</td>
<td>2760</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Birpara</td>
<td>21,125</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Falakata</td>
<td>38,256</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Madarihat</td>
<td>14,079</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Alipur Duar</td>
<td>79,037</td>
<td>4316</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Kalchini</td>
<td>46,326</td>
<td>1624</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Kumargaon</td>
<td>29,108</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 1971 (Jalpaiguri)

Percentage of manufacturing employment varies from 0.2% to 8% in all police stations in the district. Maximum percentage
of manufacturing employment is found in Jalpaiguri Sadar and Nagerakata. The police station of Mal, Alipurduar rank next being 4% to 6%, and Police station of Rajgunj, Mitiali, Dhubguri, Maynaguri, Birpara, Falakata, Kalchini and Kumargram have very low number of workers engaged in manufacturing activities. The Police station of Madarihat has the lowest percentage.

Manufacturing process is subdivided into household and other than household. Household industry mainly consists of small scale and cottage industry. Dhubguri has the highest number of employment, next comes Jalpaiguri, Rajgunj, Alipurduar, Mal, Mitiali which have the lowest number of household workers, only 4.23% of manufacturing employment. The police station of Falakata supports maximum percentage of household workers, being 62.66%.

The industries in this district are mainly related to small and cottage industries. There is ample scope for the development of resource based industries as well as demand based industries, out of local resources of raw materials and the availability of man-power, both skilled and unskilled. Some of the small scale industries which may be developed with adequate support of financial institutions are as follows: agricultural implement, safety match boxes, plant protection equipment, wooden furniture, tin containers, semimechanised bakery, cardboard boxes, tannery, glass containers etc. Apart
from these small scale industries, more need based industries can be established with the help of financial support and other infrastructural facilities and supporting services to self-employed persons.

Tertiary Activities

Tertiary activities of the district are comprised of the general activities of the people relating to construction work, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication and other miscellaneous services. The construction work engaged 0.18%, while trade and commerce employed 1.71%, communication and other services provide employment to 1.08% and 2.46% respectively. The percentages of employment quoted above relate to total population of both male and female workers engaged in tertiary activities. (Fig. 6).

Conclusion

The economy of the district is primarily concerned with agriculture, tea plantation and forestry. About 30% of the total arable area is under cultivation for production of paddy, jute, tobacco, pineapple etc. The district is the highest producer of tea in West Bengal. In Darjeeling there are about 140 tea gardens employing about 48 thousand working population and the total area under tea plantation in Darjeeling is 19,739 hectares while in Jalpaiguri the area is 65,265 hectares employing about 1.55 lakhs of workers. Tea plantation in Jalpaiguri
FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION
WORKING POPULATION (P. S. WISE)
JALPAIGURI DISTRICT

DENSITY OF WORKING POPULATION

OCCUPATION

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
is of vital importance for the country as a whole and particularly for the State of West Bengal. Tea plantation has led to the establishment of other small ancillary industry in the district.

Though the district suffering from multifarious drawbacks and limitations still attempts are being made to develop this region as an industrial one by the Govt. since independence. New industries are coming up and there are plenty of scopes to develop new industries in this district which are discussed in the following chapters.
REFERENCES


- Imperial Gazetteer of India provisional series, Bengal Vol 1, 1984.


- M.R. Choudhuri - Industrial Landscape of West Bengal.

- Dr. Mani Sanyal - "Jalpaiguri Satabarliki" (Bengali) 1968.


- S. P. Choudhuri - West Bengal Soilzone.
