WHITE sugar industry is a tropical industry as its main raw material sugarcane, which belongs to the natural order GRAMINACEAE, family ANDROPOGENEAE, nearly relating to cane, is essentially a tropical plant. At present world’s two third production of white sugar comes from the regions which have sugarcane as the raw material for this industry.

Indian sugar industry has an individuality of its own. There are two distinct action or reaction that obtain in a country. A place makes the race, or a race makes the place. So far India is concerned, the judgement is that the land and the people are under the influence of the former far more than that of the latter. Cane has existed here from times immemorial and some claim this was the home of cane originally. The distinctive feature of this industry in India is that it is more concentrated in the sub-tropical region than in the tropical region.

The State of Uttar Pradesh is situated in the heart of the sub-tropical region. In terms of area, it is the fourth largest State in India, while in terms of population it ranks first. The State has got the Yamuna Gangetic Plain with fertile alluvial soil which is built up of the detritus from the Himalayas and traversed by the rivers Ganga, Jamuna and Ghagra which are almost parallel to each other. The tract occupies the largest area covering 42 of the 54 districts of the State. This is the major sugarcane growing area which counts for about 50 per cent of the entire Indian cane acreage. The white sugar manufactured in this State catered for about 50 per cent of the entire Indian sugar production in the earlier days, but it has now gone down to about 40 per cent of the total Indian sugar production.

Modern cane valuations are based on its sucrose
contents at the time of delivery to the sugar mills. These valuations have been found to be the lowest in Uttar Pradesh resulting in the uneconomic functioning of many sugar mills. The economic reconstruction of this industry depends primarily on the sugarcane production, as the cane costs represent from 50 to 60 per cent of the total sugar costs. In the process of economic reconstruction, the relationship between the agriculture and the industry is one of mutual interdependence. While on the one hand, industrial growth is conditioned by developments in agriculture, on the other hand, agricultural production is also conditioned by developments in the industry. The soils of the State are mostly favourable to the cultivation of sugarcane, and there is enormous scope for increasing the cane production by the exploitation of scientific methods of agriculture. What is required is that there should be proper planning which can help the two sectors become complementary to each other at each stage of development.

The purpose of this study is to provide comprehensive material about the sugar industry and its growth in Uttar Pradesh since the beginning of this century. Besides giving historical survey of this industry, an attempt has been made to examine the working of this industry. Suggestions have been offered for the revival of the industry in Uttar Pradesh, to effect reduction in the cost of the sugar production and to bring the industry on a sound footing. This industry has been losing ground due to one reason or the other in the State, and efforts should, therefore, be made to raise this industry to the position that it occupied earlier.

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( Krishan Lal Narayan)