CHAPTER VI

CHANGES IN OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE.

Occupational structure ranks high among the attributes of population as an area characterising and area differentiating element. This factor is closely related to the physical resource base, stage of socio-economic development, technological advancement and cultural pattern of a region. It greatly influences the characteristics of a population such as changes in growth rate, literacy rate, sex ratio and pace of urbanization. Besides, the size of productive work force in various occupations is an important variable for comparisons and explanations of the inter zonal disparities in the levels of development within the region. Hence occupational structure and its changes reflect the readjustments in its socio-economic processes which shape the character of an area.

The study of the spatial demographic analysis of the Inter-State Chandigarh Region, having witnessed radical social and economic transformation, would be incomplete without a detailed discussion on its occupational structure. In this chapter, it is proposed to discuss the form of changes in the occupational structure and its typology, rural-urban occupational differential and spatial distribution of rural workers during the period of 1951-71.

COMPARABILITY OF THE CENSUS DATA:

In such a study, one faces the problem of the lack of
comparable data on the work force for the census of 1951, 1961 and 1971. This difficulty arises because of the change in definition introduced for the conceptual refinements regarding definition of 'worker' from census to census. In 1951, the census classified the entire population into various groups on the basis of principal means of livelihood of self-supporting persons only. The earning as well as the non-earning dependents of these persons were grouped together as belonging to the same occupation— for instance, the entire family of a cultivator (by virtue of their being his dependents) were recorded as agriculturists for a living although his wife was engaged in some non-agricultural part-time activity and his children were non-workers. In an effort to eliminate this flaw, in 1961, the population was first divided into two broad categories of workers and non-workers on the basis of main activity. Thereafter, the occupation of each individual worker was recorded. But the inclusion of "secondary workers" resulted in a definitional gain as it included students and housewives as well. To avoid this error, in 1971 an


*2. District Census Handbook, Ambala, 1971 "A Secondary Worker is a person who is engaged in some economically productive activity on a part-time basis or for only a small fraction of his time when he is reckoned as a secondary worker for his contribution to economic activity" p.22

enumerated worker was a person whose main activity was participation in any economically productive work by his physical and mental activity. Work involved not only actual work but effective supervision and direction of work as well*1. This has resulted in a definitional loss.

MAL E FEM ALE D IFFERENCE TIAL IN W OR KIN G F O RCE.

A persual of Table 6.1 reveals the above discussed difficulty in comparing the work force data. Since in 1951, the whole population was grouped on the basis of livelihood, it stands no comparison to the latter decades except in its male-female ratio which was 54.5 per cent and 45.5 per cent respectively. While in 1961, only 32.6 per cent of the total population (males 30.7 per cent and females 1.9 per cent) were treated as workers as against 30 per cent (28.9 per cent males and 1.1 per cent females) at the 1971 census. However, the proportion of workers of the Inter-State Chandigarh Region in 1971 was higher than the average of Punjab 28.9 per cent (28.3 per cent males and 0.6 per cent females) and Haryana 26.4 per cent (males 25.3 per cent and females 1.1 per cent).

The Region, along with other parts of North Western India, has a low percentage of population as workers. The reasons being, that in the I.S.C.R, as in the Northern Plains, women are primarily confined to domestic work and therefore

*1. Census of India. Ibid p.22
## TABLE 6.1

**INTER-STATE CHANDIGARH REGION**

**WORKING POPULATION: 1951-71**

Percentage of workers as per cent of total population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Male workers as percent of male population.</th>
<th>Female workers as percent of female population.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:

i) District Census Handbooks of Ambala, Patiala and Kohistan, 1951.


* Compiled and computed for the I.S.C.R.
cannot be enumerated as workers. Secondly, if children below 15 are excluded from the active population, the percentage would drop further. Thirdly the rapid growth of population during 1961-71 is partly responsible for lowering the percentage of workers to total population. This applies to rural areas where employment opportunities have not kept pace with population growth as is revealed by the movement of males from rural to urban areas. As per 1971 census, only 2.5 per cent of the total females of the region are recorded as workers as against 52.3 per cent of the male workers. This is in sharp contrast to the advanced countries where females constitute a large proportion of the productive work force.

The low ratio of women as workers in the region is explained in terms of social, cultural and political history of the area. In the rural areas there is a strong, though waning, sentiment if not taboo against participation of women in outdoor work and their mixing with the elder male members of the family. The people of the higher strata of society do not approve of the participation of their womenfolk in the economic struggle. To cap it all, male workers are still preferred where skill and strength are required. Also, it is expected that man is the chief bread winner and social

*2. Chandna,R.C. 1967 "Female Working Force In Rural Punjab" Manpower Journal, 4 p.50
conventions require universal participation of adult males in economic activities. However, the low rate of literacy and education among females is one of the factors for large differential among employed males and females in non-agricultural activities. Though since 1951, there has been some improvement in the rural female work force because of change in outlook, increased literacy, improved social status of women, and better living standard, yet the overwhelming majority of the female population still confines itself to domestic work.


There is a notable difference in the proportion of workers in rural and urban areas of the region. Table 6.2 reveals that the whole of rural population constituting (males 54.4 per cent and females 45.6 per cent) and the whole of urban population constituting (males 55.5 per cent and females 44.5 per cent) were recorded as workers in 1951, including their dependents. In 1961, 31.5 per cent of the rural population (males 94.3 per cent and females 5.7 per cent) constituted the productive work force as compared to 35.9 per cent of the urban population (males 93.7 per cent and females 6.3 per cent). The proportion of workers in the rural areas of the region in 1971 was 29.1 (males 98.4 per cent and females 1.6 per cent) while in the urban areas it was

### Table 6.2

**INTER-STATE CHANDIGARH REGION**

**SEX COMPOSITION OF WORKING POPULATION: 1951-71**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>90.8</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>44.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Compiled and computed for the Inter-State Chandigarh Region.

**Source:**

i) District Census Handbooks of Ambala, Patiala and Kohistan, 1951.


31.6 per cent (males 92.6 per cent and females 7.4 per cent). The 4.1 per cent decrease in the case of female employment in the rural areas during 1961-71 is on account of the deletion of secondary workers and the introduction of the concept of manufacturing to cover full-time workers. The marginal increase in the urban areas during the corresponding decade is attributed to the difference in the literacy rate, freedom of movement of women and the impact of urbanization. Moreover in towns, there are better employment opportunities for women in offices, educational institutions, hospitals and small scale industries than in the villages where tradition-bound landowners do not allow females to work outside the home. Yet there has been some change in their attitudes during recent years.

However, the differences in the occupational structure between the rural and urban working populations are well marked (Table 6.3). In the rural areas, primary (68 per cent) tertiary (18.5 per cent) and secondary (13.5 per cent) workers are employed in the order of importance in contrast to towns where tertiary (76.7 per cent), secondary (19.1 per cent) and primary (4.2 per cent) activities form the scale of descending order. Thus, the overwhelming importance of primary occupations in villages and tertiary occupations in towns is evident. These disparities in the occupational categories of the two forms of
settlements are clearly reflected in the type of economy, standard of education, rate of literacy and general development.

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL WORKERS.

As is revealed in Table 6.2 the male workers in 1971 far exceeded female workers in the rural areas of the region. Of the total working population in the rural areas, 68 per cent depended on agriculture for a living. It is natural that its spatial distribution should be greatly influenced by the development of agriculture through improvement in irrigation, soils, land holdings, agricultural techniques and the existent nutritional density of the region. In fact, there is an inverse relationship between the percentage of workers and sex ratio; areas with high percentage of working population have low sex ratio and vice-versa. This is because women, engaged in domestic work, are not enumerated as workers as discussed in the earlier pages. Therefore, most of the population with a majority of males is employed in one productive activity or the other.

The I.S.C.R. can be divided into three categories for discussion of the spatial distribution of rural workers of 1971, based on the average percentage of 29.1(Map.6.1)

Where the ratio of the workers is:

A. More than 32 per cent,
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
RURAL WORKERS AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL POPULATION
1961

INDEX
(In percentage)

ABOVE 48
40 to 48
32 to 40
24 to 32
BELOW 24
X UNINHABITED VILLAGE
U URBAN AREA
DNA DATA NOT AVAILABLE

(Data by individual villages)

Map 6.2
A. Areas with relatively high proportion of rural workers of more than 32 per cent:—This category includes 24.5 per cent (234 villages) of the region. They are mostly confined to,

1) within and on the periphery of the Union Territory of Chandigarh;
2) along the Chandigarh—Kalka road, and the upper dissected plain;
3) in the vicinity of other urban areas of the region and
4) along the upper floodplains of Ghaggar river.

The villages of the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the adjacent villages of the upper dissected plain have more than 32 per cent of population as workers. These are areas which have recorded a high rate of population growth and are characterized by lower sex ratio than the rural average of 825 females per 1,000 males. This is accounted for by the arrival of male workers into Chandigarh, its adjoining villages and vicinity towns. Undoubtedly, Chandigarh offers ample opportunities for employment. But the high cost of living and high rents have compelled most of the low-paid workers to live in nearby villages from where it is possible for them to commute everyday, thus raising the percentage of workers
in the surrounding villages.

A large number of villages lying south east of Mani Majra and in the flood plain of Chaggar river, have a high proportion of workers. These are the male immigrants employed in the miscellaneous services of Chandigarh and have more than 40 per cent share in this activity.

There are scattered patches of high percentage of workers in Kalka and Naraingarh Tehsils. The setting up of industries like H.M.T. and Fertilizer factory along the Chandigarh-Kalka road, quick transportation and nearness to Chandigarh are the main reasons for the high percentage of workers in Kalka Tehsil. In Naraingarh Tehsil, despite a considerable outmigration of male workers to Chandigarh, the active participation of females in farming leads to a high proportion of working population.

Areas with a low proportion of rural workers of less than 24 per cent constitute 7.4 per cent (71) villages of the region. These are located in the south-eastern dissected plain; the tract located to the north-west of the town of Banur and in patches in the southern section of the Rajpura Tehsil.

The largest part of this category lies in the south-eastern dissected plain which is marked by high sex ratio.

This is the result of male selective outmigration towards Chandigarh which is due to the backward economy of the tract. The patch to the north-west of Banur has a low percentage of workers. The working people of this section have outmigrated due to poor economy made so by the alkaline soils. Thus, all the villages of this category are localized in the southern periphery of the region, far from the nodal centre.

C) Areas with a moderate population of rural workers ranging between 24 to 32 per cent:

This category has the maximum number of 651 villages constituting 68.1 per cent of the region. It includes the remaining villages of the upland, the dissected plain and the hilly area. On account of their transitional locations, they have a moderate percentage of workers.

In sum, the villages around Chandigarh and along the Chandigarh-Kalka road are the two marked areas having a high percentage of rural workers because of the magnetic pull of the capital. The arrival of male workers in this belt has lowered the sex ratio. The areas with a low population of active workers, on account of the outflow of male workers, include the south-east dissected plain, villages to the north-west of the town of Banur and the lower section of the flood plain of the Chagger river.
SPATIAL PATTERNS OF OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE AND
THE CHANGES THEREIN.

On account of the changes in occupational categories, the available data does not permit direct comparison between 1951 and 1971 decades, while it is possible to compare the data of 1961 and 1971. However, before discussing the spatial patterns and the changes therein, it becomes esstential to first throw some light on the occupational categories.

As per 1971 census, there are nine occupational categories which could be adjusted and compared with the 1961 census. They are:-

I. Cultivators: II. Agricultural labourers:
III. Workers engaged in livestock, forestry and fishing,
IV. Workers in mining and quarrying:
Va. Workers in household industries.
Vb. Workers in manufacturing industries,
VI. Workers in construction work: VII. Workers in trade and commerce: VIII. Workers in transport and storage.
IX. Workers in other services.

These categories have been discussed under the major headings of primary, secondary and tertiary activities.

During 1961-71 decade, it has been observed that there has been an increase in the number of workers in the primary activities from 65.5 per cent to 68 per cent, a reduction in
in secondary activities from 17.4 per cent to 13.5 per cent and a marginal increase in tertiary activities from 17.1 per cent to 18.5 per cent of the rural population (Table 6.3).

**PRIMARY OCCUPATIONS:**

The primary occupations have recorded a gain of 2.5 per cent in their work force during 1961-71 but there has been a wide variation in the proportion of its two constituent categories—cultivators and agricultural labourers. The cultivators declined from 55.8 per cent to 47.9 per cent while agricultural labourers increased from 8.6 per cent to 18.5 per cent. The percentage of cultivators has declined because of the:

a) Migration of the educated males to urban settlements,
b) Increased demand for workers in the tertiary activities in view of the developmental process during the Five Year plans. The number of agricultural labourers has increased because new areas have been reclaimed and irrigated. The migrant labour replaces, at least partially, the outmigrants from among the cultivators.

1) **Cultivators:** A comparison of Maps 6.3 and 6.4 shows that the fall in the proportion of cultivators has been well marked in the dissected plain, especially in the peripheral villages of the Union Territory i.e. the zone to the south-east of Chandigarh and the north-western part of the region.
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
CULTIVATORS AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1971

Percentage
■ AVERAGE 47.9
Uninhabited village
Urban area
Data not available
(Data by individual villages)
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
CULTIVATORS AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL POPULATION
1961

Percentage

70
60
50
40
30
• • •
4 • • *
AVERAGE 55.8
Uninhabited village
Urban area
Data not available
(Data by Individual villages)

Map 6.4
# TABLE 6.3

INTER-STATE CHANDIGARH REGION

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF POPULATION: 1951-71

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Cultivators</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Agricultural labourers</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. Livestock, fishing, forestry, mining, &amp; quarrying</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary activities</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>va. Household industries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vb. Manufacturing industries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vc. Construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary activities</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii. Trade &amp; commerce</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viii. Transport.</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix. Other services</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


* Compiled and computed for the Inter-State Chandigarh Region.
These areas are characterized by a high rate of literacy. The literate persons employed in non-agricultural pursuits find it difficult to meet their expenses in the city and have started living in the surrounding villages, where house rents are not so high. Along the Chandigarh-Kalka road, there has been a marked drop in the number of cultivators during this decade since villagers were attracted to take jobs in non-agricultural pursuits. Besides, small land holdings and high nutritional density brought about a shift to non-agricultural sector. Also there has been definite outmigration from amongst the cultivators, apart from the cultivators taking to non-agricultural jobs within their own areas.

Cultivators make up 47.9 per cent of the total working population. A high proportion (more than 60 per cent) is found in the hilly region and in the central and southern upland plain. The hilly areas being generally backward, have few means of livelihood activities except agriculture. The high percentage of cultivators in the southern upland plain is attributed to the migration of small peasants from Ropar and Kharar Tehsils where they disposed of their lands at high prices and purchased more land at lower prices in Fategarh Sahib and Rajpura Tehsils from big landlords who were affected by land ceiling laws.
ii) Agricultural labourers: An increase in the percentage of agricultural labourers has been registered in:

1) the upland plain, ii) western dissected plain, and 
2) small pockets of/hilly terrain (Maps 6.5 and 6.6).

The most important reason for the increase of agricultural labourers is the growth of this tract agriculturally through the development of irrigation, reclamation of cultivable waste land, control of floods and better means of cultivation. Among other factors, the increase in agricultural labourers has been necessitated by the continued outmigration from among the cultivators. Besides, the dying of traditional household industries like collecting fuel, herding cattle, tanning and curving of hides, usually taken up by the Scheduled Castes, is facing with competition from large scale industries.*1. This compelles the jobless Scheduled Castes to take up to agricultural labour. Also, there population has increased considerably during 1961-71 (Map 3.4) and this is an additional point to explain the large number of Scheduled Castes labourers found here.

The low percentage( less than 5 per cent ) of agricultural labourers is confined to the hilly area and the south-eastern section of the undulating plain which forms a part of Nariangarh Tehsil of Ambala district in Haryana. This area of poor agriculture, does not need agricultural labourers

Inter-State Chandigarh Region
AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS AS PER CENT OF RURAL WORKERS 1971

PER CENT

40
30
20
10
X UNINHABITED VILLAGE
U URBAN AREA
NA DATA NOT AVAILABLE

(Data by individual villages)

Map 6.5
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS AS PER CENT OF
RURAL WORKERS
1961

Percentage

- Above 40
- 30-40
- 20-30
- 10-20
- Below 10 (Average 8.6)
- X Uninhabited Village
- U Urban Area
- DNA Data Not Available

(Data by Individual Villages)
to the same extent as some of the well irrigated and agriculturally prosperous areas do., hence low percentage of agricultural labourers. Also, the tradition of the area encourages female participation in farming and there is little need to engage labour. The low percentage of workers in farming in the south-eastern section of Chandigarh is attributed to the predominance of non-agricultural workers living in these rural areas.

iii) Workers employed in forestry, livestock, fishing mining, quarrying and other allied activities:

The increase in the proportion of workers engaged in forestry, livestock, fishing, mining and quarrying is only 0.5 per cent and is confined to areas around the towns of Naraingarh, Bānur, Dera Bassi, Kharar, Morinda and Chandigarh (Maps 6.7 and 6.8). Such activities give employment to 1.6 per cent of the rural population in the vicinity of towns. Workers in forestry are found in the hilly areas of Naraingarh and Kharar Tehsils. Mining and quarrying account for a very small fraction of the working population in the Morni and Siwalik hills.

SECONDARY OCCUPATIONS:

The workers in secondary occupations together have suffered a net loss of 3.9 per cent. But the break up of its constituent activities (household, manufacturing and
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
WORKERS IN FORESTRY, FISHING, LIVESTOCK ETC
AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1971

Map

Percentage

50
25
10
0
Uninhabited Village
Urban area
Data not available

(Data by individual villages)
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
WORKERS IN FORESTRY, FISHING, LIVESTOCK ETC
AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1961

(Data by individual villages)
construction) vary considerably. The importance of household industries has diminished greatly and it employs 7.5 per cent fewer workers than before. Manufacturing industries have increased in number and employ 3.2 per cent more workers.

1) Workers in household industries.

No other occupational category among the non-agricultural classes has been subject to such marked decline as household industries. The percentage of villages without any household industries rose from 19 per cent (180 villages in 1961) to 42.4 per cent (403 villages) in 1971. The competition from cheap machine made goods has compelled the artisans to give up their looms and move to towns where they have either set up their own workshops or factories or have been absorbed in industrial jobs. In the 1961 decade (Map 6.10) household industries were widespread throughout the region. But by 1971 they were confined to a few places in the region, their location being away from the towns.

The workers employed in household industries as weavers, tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, potters, constitute 3.9 per cent of the rural work force. There are villages where their proportion is as high as 10 per cent (Map 6.9). These are the areas with a dominance of scheduled Caste population. The villages close to the towns have fewer workers in this industry as the needs of the villagers are met by the towns where better machine made goods are available. This is also
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
WORKERS IN HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRIES AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1961

INDEX
(In percentage)
- ABOVE 100
- 75 to 100
- 50 to 75
- 25 to 50
- BELOW 25
- NIL
- UNINHABITED VILLAGES
- U URBAN AREA
- DNA DATA NOT AVAILABLE

(DATA BY INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES)
true of the villages along the metalled roads connecting Chandigarh with Poper; and Dera Bassi with Chandigarh.

ii) Workers in manufacturing industries

There has been considerable increase in the proportion of workers in manufacturing industries from 3.7 per cent to 6.9 per cent in 1971. This has been possible because of urbanization of the region; availability of hydroelectric power, provision of loans and facilities by the Government and improved means of transport which have led to rapid growth of manufacturing industries in the area since 1951. All the towns attract daily commuters from the neighbouring villages but Chandigarh's share is the highest. Consequently, the maximum change has been recorded in the villages adjoining Chandigarh, Kalka, Dera Bassi and Kharar (Maps 6.11 and 6.12) - the towns located on the main roads having some small and medium industries of their own.

Developmental activity has created a demand for bricks. The brick kiln industry has come up and provides employment to people who have migrated from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Brick kilns are situated in rural areas around towns or along metalled roads.

iii) Workers in construction

There has been only a slight increase of 0.4 per cent in the proportion of workers employed in construction work
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1961

•-AVERAGE 3.7

IN PERCENTAGE

- ABOVE 100
- 75 to 100
- 50 to 75
- 25 to 50 --- AVERAGE 3.7
- BELOW 25
- NIL
- X UNINHABITED VILLAGES
- U URBAN AREA
- DNA DATA NOT AVAILABLE

(Data by individual villages)

Map 6.12
during 1961-71. On the whole, the spatial pattern of distribution of workers of this category remained the same for both 1961 and 1971 (Maps 6.13 and 6.14). The highest category of construction with 2.5 per cent of workers are all confined to the vicinity of towns of Chandigarh, Mani Majra and along the main roads where intensive building activity, factories, houses and roads created a demand for them. Most of the labourers have been recruited from the villages in the vicinity or have migrated from Rajasthan.

In sum, manufacturing industries account for 6.9 per cent, household industries 3.9 per cent, and workers in construction 2.7 per cent of the rural workers employed in the secondary activities of the I.S.C.R. Workers in the manufacturing industries are generally found in villages within a radius of 8 to 10 km from towns where manufacturing industries are located. The proportion of such workers ranges between 10 to 20 per cent in the rural settlements situated around Kalka, Pera Bassi and Kharar while it goes up to 50 per cent and above in the rural settlements around Chandigarh and Mani Majra. A point worth noting is the high proportion of workers engaged in manufacturing industries all along the main Chandigarh-Kalka road.

TERTIARY OCCUPATIONS

This group of occupational activities has undergone a small increase of 1.4 per cent in the proportion of workers
Inter-State Chandigarh Region

WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION WORK AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS 1971

Percentage

- 50
- 25
- 12
- 0
- Uninhabited village
- Urban area
- Data not available

(Data by individual villages)

Map 6.13
during 1961-71. The increase, though marginal, is in all the three components of this group of activities.

i) **Workers in trade and commerce:**

There has been a slight rise of 0.5 per cent in the number of workers employed in trade and commerce during 1961-71 because of the considerable increase in the mobility of the people after the construction of new roads and use of fast-moving vehicles. Moreover, the gaining importance of grain markets of Raipur Rani, Banur and Dera Bassi have brought more trade and commerce to the region. The spread of education, rise in the prices of agricultural products and the role of marketing and co-operative societies in the rural areas have reduced the role played by middlemen who used to purchase the products before 1951 and then sell them in the market.

Though on an average 3.5 per cent of the workers are enumerated in trade and commerce, there are several villages around Chandigarh and Dera Bassi where there is a relatively high percentage of workers (5 to 12 per cent) employed in trade i.e. shops. In these villages, there has been considerable growth of non-agricultural population and since they are located close to towns, the shopkeepers can easily obtain and supply goods (Maps 6.15 and 6.16).

ii) **Workers in transport, storage and communication.**

There has been a small increase of 0.6 per cent in
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
WORKERS IN TRADE AND COMMERCE AS PERCENT
OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1971

Data not available (Data by individual villages)

Map 6.15
Inter-State Chandigarh Region

WORKERS IN TRADE AND COMMERCE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1961

(Data by individual villages)

Map 6.16
the population of workers employed in transport and storage. As Chandigarh is very well connected by road, not only with the region but also with the adjoining states, it has become a nucleus of road transport. Next to Chandigarh is Kalka, which has for long been an important transport town on account of its geographical location at the break-of-bulk point. Hundreds of motor vehicles of different types traverse the region increasing the scope for employment of people of the nearby villages. The people of the region prefer to travel by road rather than rail because road transport is well developed. The opening of post offices in the rural areas has provided jobs to a number of people.

The proportion of workers employed in transport, storage and communication in the region account for 1.6 per cent of its rural workers. The distributional pattern of the transport workers (Map 6.17) has two interesting features: villages situated along the roads have a higher percentage of workers employed because of the large traffic on these roads. The workers enjoy the privilege of commuting without payment to the towns where the offices of the transport companies are located. Secondly, the peripheral villages of the transport towns like Chandigarh and Kalka, which are focal points of various routes, have a higher percentage of workers engaged in the trade. Some workers are employed in cold
Inter-State Chandigarh Region
WORKERS IN TRANSPORT AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1971

(Data by individual villages)
Workers in transport as percent of total rural workers, 1961.
storage, which were constructed outside the jurisdiction of towns so as to escape municipal taxes.

iii) Workers employed in other services:

There has been a minimal increase of 0.3 percent in the percentage of workers engaged in miscellaneous activities during 1961-71. This is a paradox considering the fact that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of schools, communications, health clinics, commercial banks, veterinary hospitals, family planning centres and gram sevak panchayat centres established in the villages during the Five Year Plans. The increase is nominal for two reasons. First, the natural growth of rural population has outstripped the growth of employment opportunities. Secondly a large number of female workers and to an extent male workers also, who belong to towns, if posted to a village, do not move to their place of work for reasons of benefits. The lure of city life, its cinemas and cultural activity persuade them not to move to the villages. The lack of good or higher educational facilities for children is also an important factor. Thus, the family often decides to stay in the town even if the working woman has to commute 20 to 30 kms every day. The strain of travel is reduced as good and regular public transport is available.

Besides the daily commuting of workers from urban
Inter-State Chandigarh Region

WORKERS IN OTHER SERVICES AS PERCENT OF TOTAL RURAL WORKERS
1961

(Data by individual villages)
to rural areas, there is also a considerable number of workers in the rural areas who go to nearby towns every day. The surrounding villages of Chandigarh take a lead in this. In fact, there has been tremendous increase in the number of workers of miscellaneous services in the rural areas around Chandigarh and Mani Majra where more than 20 per cent of the workers are engaged in this activity (Map 6.19).

In the field work study conducted in July, 1968, it was revealed that students from 225 villages around Chandigarh and adjoining towns of Kalka, Kharar, Kurali, Dera Bassi and Mani Majra came to colleges or the university every day*¹. The hospital zone of Chandigarh included all villages falling in the various functional zones, and thus was synonymous with the umland of Chandigarh*².

It is evident from the foregoing discussion that since agriculture is the major source of livelihood in the rural areas, cultivators and agricultural labourers form the dominant group among primary occupations. The western upland plain has attracted a good number of agricultural labourers. This has happened because of the development of irrigation, intensive cropping and an increase in the cultivated land. Besides, the outmigration of educated cultivators created the need for agricultural labourers.

The flood plains have also witnessed an increase in the percentage of agricultural labourers with the control of floods, reclamation of waterlogged and cultivable wasteland and improvement in irrigation facilities. Thus, intensification of agriculture has brought in more labour.

Among the non-agricultural workers, the number of those engaged in miscellaneous activities exceeds the percentage in household industries, manufacturing industries, trade and commerce, construction, transport and communication. In fact, people engaged in other services and manufacturing industries together account for one-fifth of the working population in secondary and tertiary sectors. They are concentrated in villages situated in the peripheral areas of towns having good facilities of daily commuting. Many of these villages enjoy higher rates of literacy than the rural settlements situated away from the urban centres. On the contrary, the workers in household industries, trade and commercial activity are mostly found in villages situated in the interior of the region. Thus, most of the workers in miscellaneous services, manufacturing industries, construction work and transport earn a living by working in the towns and adjacent villages.

Conclusions:

1) Only 30 per cent (males 28.9 per cent and females
1.1 per cent) of the total population of the region are workers. This shows that as in other parts of north-west India, a majority of the people belong to the category of non-workers: those included are women who do not do much work outside their households; children below 15 and non-working old people. The impact of rapid growth of population on the size of the work force is important.

2) The number of workers in rural areas is 29.1 per cent (males 98.4 per cent and females 1.6 per cent) as compared to 31.6 per cent (males 92.6 per cent and females 7.4 per cent) in urban areas of the region. The proportion of female workers is 5.8 per cent more in towns than in the villages as more women in the towns are employed in jobs since they are educated and have better social status and life style.

3) Sixty-eight per cent of the workers in the rural areas are employed in primary activities while in urban areas an overwhelming majority (95.3 per cent) of the working population belongs to tertiary and secondary activities. These contrasts are reflected in the differences pertaining to the nature of economy, rate of literacy, means of production and social structure of the two.

4) There has been an increase in the number of agricultural labourers during 1961-71 in the villages.
Intensification of agriculture and out-migration from among educated farming families have brought about an increase in the percentage of agricultural labourers.

5) The peripheral villages of some towns have a relatively high proportion of workers in non-agricultural activities such as miscellaneous services, manufacturing industries, and workers in construction, while villages in the interior have more cultivators and agricultural labourers.

6) There is need to diversify the rural agricultural economy by developing dairies, poultry farms and horticulture on a scientific basis. Agriculture also calls for much improvement. Women can play a significant role in these activities, if they are not working outside the home.