

LOCATION OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA

D. U. SASTRY*

The object of this study is (a) to examine the location pattern of the sugar industry in India for the decade 1950-60; (b) to obtain the 1970-71 pattern. This is an individual industry study and hence it assumes away the interconnections with the rest of the economy.

The growth of the sugar industry has been phenomenal in the decade 1950-60. Sugar production increased from 1.1 million tons to 3 million tons and the number of operating factories rose from 141 to 176. The establishment of new factories mostly took place in the Second Plan period. This remarkable development was marked by a change in the spatial pattern of the industry. Sugar production increased by four-fold from 2.6 lakh tons to a million tons in the tropical region¹ and the number of operating factories rose from 33 to 60 during this period. Thus, her share in the total sugar production increased from 23 per cent to 33 per cent, while the share of U.P. and Bihar declined by 13 per cent.

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The faster growth of the industry in the tropical region will be examined under two heads : (1) Production and transport costs and (2) other factors.

(1) *Production and transport costs* : The data on costs of production have been taken from the census of manufactures (CMI), 1956 to 1958.² These data suffer from the following limitations: (a) State-wise break-up is not available separately for all the sugar producing States; separate Statewise figures, wherever available, are not given

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¹ The distinction between the tropical and subtropical region is based on conditions of weather and rainfall. Included under tropical region are Bombay (Gujarat included), Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Kerala, Orissa and Pondicherry, while U.P., Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal are in the subtropical group.

² Department of Statistics, Central Statistical Organization, Government of India.