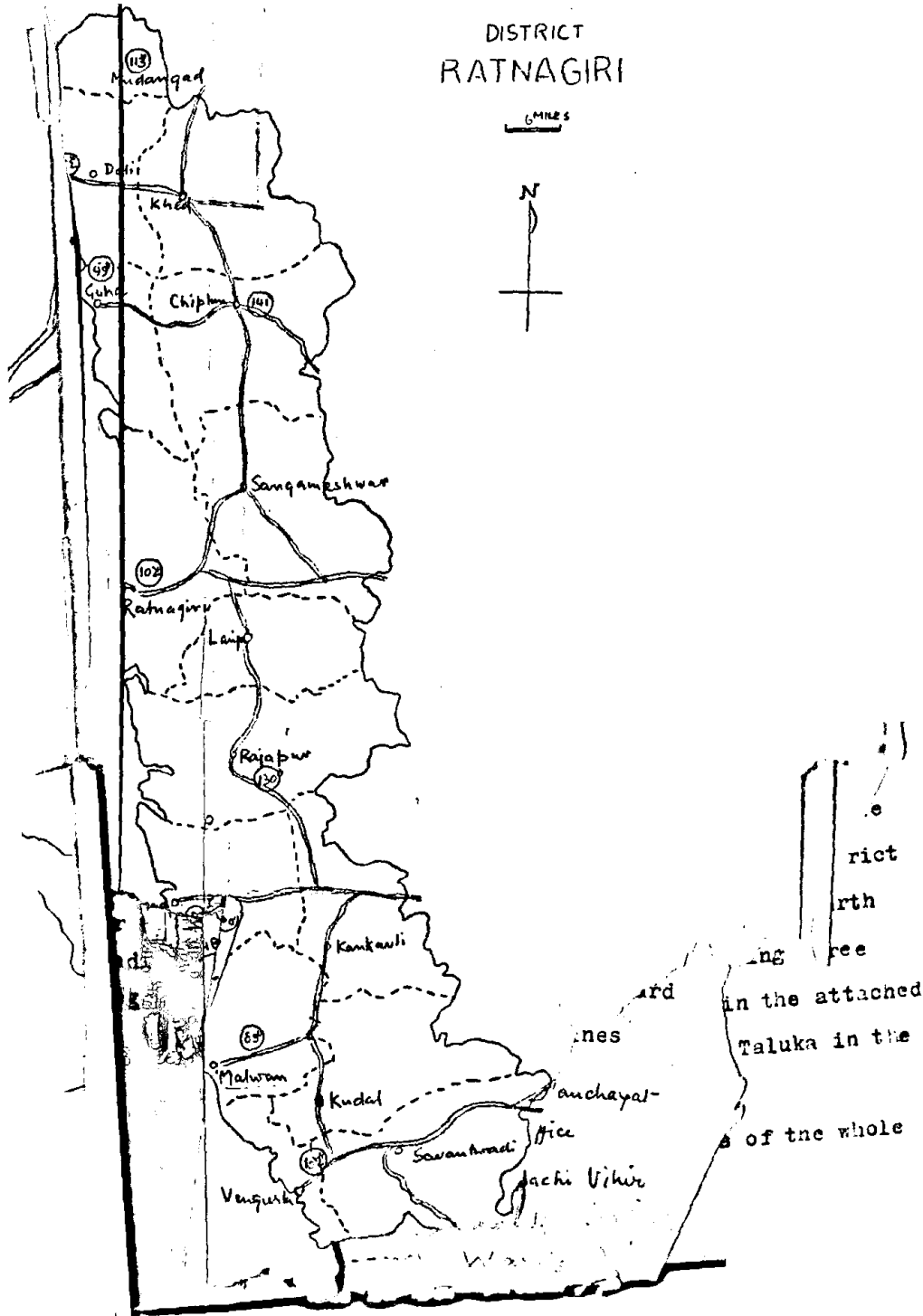


C O N T E N T S

Chapter	I	...	...	1	-	17
Chapter	II	...	...	18	-	78
Chapter	III	...	...	79	-	87
Chapter	IV	...	...	88	-	132
Chapter	V	...	...	133	-	179 181
Chapter	VI	182	-	208 210
Chapter	VII	209	-	269 272
Chapter	VIII	273	-	343

DISTRICT
RATNAGIRI


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INDEX TO MAP

○	<u>WADIS</u>	
1	1	Bhatwadi
2	2	Ranewadi
	3	Suterwadi
	4	Ranewadi
	5	Savent wada
	6	Bhandar wada
3	7	Lokewada
4	8	Nare wada
5	9	Jogal wada
6	10	Deul wada
	11	Mhar-wadi
	12	Bazaar
	13	Utkat wadi
	14	Vaghoba wadi
	15	Phatak wada
	16	Agwan
	17	Jethe wada
	18	Kubal wada
	19	Kond
	20	Harba wadi
	21	Gana wadi
	22	Bagwadi
	23	Anantwadi
	24	Shegul wadi
	25	Pednekar wadi
	26	Dagar wadi
	27	Tambaldeg
	28	Katwar

	<u>SCHOOLS</u>
1	Full Primary School No.1
2	High School & Rural Training College
3	Full Primary School Phatak wada
4	Full Primary School, Shegul wada
5	Fisheries school
6	First Grade School, Katwan

	<u>TEMPLES</u>
1	Rameshwar
2	Ganapati
3	Dattamandir
4	Vithoba
5	Gajba devi

	Hills
	Road
	Cart track
≠	Cremation ground
	Quarry
	Market
	Weekly market
	Fish curing yard
	Silica Mines
⊠	Gram Panchayat
⊙	Post Office
	Vaghobachi Vihar

Chapter I

General :

The village, Mithbav, is in Ratnagiri, one of the coastal districts of Bombay. The district lies between $15^{\circ}40''$ and $18^{\circ}5''$ north latitude and $73^{\circ}5''$ and $73^{\circ}55''$ east longitude and has an area of a little over 5000 sq.miles and 17,12,000 inhabitants. To the west of the district lies the Arabian Sea, giving the district a sea-board of about 160 miles. Like-wise, the water-shed of the Sahyadri hills, forms other natural boundary on the east. The district is a narrow coastal strip lying between Kolaba district on the north and the Portuguese territory of Goa on the south.

The area included in the district of Ratnagiri is divided into 15 sub-divisions, for administrative purposes,

They are :

1. Dapoli, Guhagar, Ratnagiri
2. Mandangad, Khed, Chiplun, Sangameshwar,
3. Lanja, Rajapur
4. Devgad, Malvan, Vengurla
5. Kankavli, Kudal, Savantwadi.

Dapoli, Guhagar and Ratnagiri are the talukas forming northern coastal region. The four talukas in the second group form the north-eastern region. The central region includes the talukas of Lanja and Rajapur. The southern half of the district is grouped on the same lines. Talukas included in the fourth group form the south coastal region while the remaining three talukas form the south-eastern region. As shown in the attached map, the survey village of Mithbav falls in Devgad Taluka in the south-coastal region.

The taluka exhibits ^{all the} soil characteristics of the whole

district. The strips of land along the coast in between the hills ranges jutting into the sea, are very narrow with a width of 5 to 10 miles. The survey village^s lies in one such narrow coastal strip. Between the coastal area and the forests forming the eastern boundary of the district is a low lying plateau, generally sloping towards the west. This plateau is between 30 to 35 miles wide and includes the principal cultivated area of the district. It is a rocky^{concrete} area, principally containing laterite, Chira, used in the construction of houses by the local people. Cultivation is carried on in the thin crust of soil covering these rock-beds.

1.5 The district receives its rainfall from the south-west monsoons, a large part of which ^{gets} precipitated on the Western Ghats. The rainfall increases from the coast to the interior from 100" to 150". Figures in circles in the map ^{of the District} denote the average rainfall around the regions. The average rainfall of the taluka of Davgad is between 80 to 100 inches. All over the district the rainfall is ^{generally} heavy and certain. Kharif is the only agricultural season. Rabi crops are grown only where there is some source of water supply.

1.6 Due to the ^{narrowness} small breadth of the district between the coast and the Sahyadri ranges, the maximum length of any river is not more than 40 miles. The nature of the tract is extremely hilly and due to heavy rains over the hills the rivers are in high floods during the monsoons but go dry soon after. They are of little use for purposes of irrigation.

1.7 The principal Agricultural community in the district is the Maratha. The Brahmins are a land-owning class generally

and they rent^{Bhandaris} out land for cultivation to Marathas and Kunbis.

The Marathas are both land-owning and cultivating classes.

Trading of groceries and other goods is mainly in the hands of the Vanis or Vaishyas. Brahmins and Marathas have also recently taken to trading to a certain extent. *The Harijans, the depressed untouchable castes, are engaged in agricultural labour work.*

1.8 About one-third of the area of the district is under forest and about one-fourth is under crops. The important food-crops of the district are rice and ragi which account for about 60% of the total cropped area. Other important crops are the garden crops, namely, coconuts, mangoes, betel-nuts and cashew-nuts. ^{No. 1} The following table gives the proportionate distribution of the total cultivated area under different crops.

Table 1.1. Cropwise Distribution of the cultivated area of the District

<u>Crops</u>	<u>Percent of total cropped area</u>
Rice	41.5
Ragi	18.9
Kodra	8.5
Other cereals	4.6
Pulses	6.6
Oil seeds	2.0
Other crops	17.9
	100.00

Rice is the more important crop in the southern regions of the district, including the Devgad taluka. Garden crops are ~~also~~ more concentrated in the southern region than the northern region.

1.9 The following ^{sub-area of the} Table has been extracted from 1951 census data and gives proportionate distribution of occupations according to livelihood classes of the District, the taluka and the survey village.

<u>Livelihood classes</u>	<u>Ratnagiri District</u>	<u>Devgad Taluka</u>	<u>Mithbav village</u>
1. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned & dependants.	39.12	48.20	43.85
2. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned & dependants.	26.38	17.46	12.21
3. Cultivating labourers and their dependants.	2.46	2.24	1.45
4. Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers & their dependants	1.54	1.80	2.43
Total	69.50	69.70	59.94
<u>Agricultural Classes</u>			
5. Production other than cultivation	10.16	11.87	22.03
6. Commerce	3.57	2.88	4.04
7. Transport	2.78	3.62	.64
8. Other services & Misc. sources.	13.99	11.93	13.35
<u>Non-Agricultural Classes</u>			
Total	30.50	30.30	40.06
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source : Ratnagiri - District Census Handbook (Based on 1951 Census).

Though the total proportion engaged in agriculture is the same for the district and the taluka, there is a diversion as regards the first two livelihood classes. The increase in the proportion of cultivators of mainly owned land is due to the proportionately greater fragmentation of land, reported in the southern regions of the district. This fact is more clearly illustrated by the proportions in the above two classes. Whereas those engaged in agriculture constitute nearly 60% of the village population as against nearly 70% for the taluka and

district, nearly 44% are mainly owner-cultivations, the proportions of tenant-cultivators being only 12%.

As compared to the district and the taluka proportions, those engaged in non-agricultural occupations at Mithbav are more by nearly 10%. This is mainly due to its being a coastal village, with 250 or 22% of the total number of families belonging to Gabits, a majority of whom are engaged in fishing. This fact is reflected in the fifth livelihood class. It may be noted here, that fishing is the second major occupation of the district, with about 70,000 persons engaged in it. The increase in the next or sixth class is due to the size of the village, which is the ^{second} biggest village in the taluka, with a population of 5440 persons. It is an important market place, serving a population of more than 15,000 persons.

The district has no rail-road and no rail connection with other districts. Communication with other coastal districts and the city of Bombay is mostly by sea. During the monsoons when ~~the~~ coastal steamer services are suspended, the traffic is diverted to ~~the~~ inland routes. With ~~the~~ inland and the south-coastal regions, ~~the~~ communication is mostly via Kolhapur and Belgaum. From the point of view of internal communication, the Bombay-Goa road, running north-south through the entire length of the district is the most important. The total length of motorable roads in the district is about 1150 miles and of non-motorable roads about 1,100 miles. During monsoons however, most of the roads are rendered difficult and often useless for traffic.

Mithbav can be reached by the sea-route from Bombay via Devgad or the land-route from Kolhapur via ^F ~~M~~onda. The taluka

map indicates the situation of the village in relation to the taluka and its road system. The village lies at a distance of 9 miles from ~~the intersection of the approach road with the~~ ^{the} Kolhapur-Devgad mail route. The approach road ~~actually connect-~~ ^{extends to} the ~~mail route with~~ Malvan, the taluka ~~place of the taluka~~ ^{head quarters} to the south of Devgad. This road, intercepted by rivers at 3 points is, however, not used for passenger traffic. It meets the Mithbav approach road at a distance of 3 miles from the village in the north.

1.14 Large scale migration to Bombay in search of employment is one of the basic features of economic life of the Ratnagiri district. The soil is generally poor and absence of irrigation makes it difficult to raise a second crop. During ~~the~~ ^{the} rabi season the agriculture ^{activity} of the district is ~~therefore~~ ^{would be a crop} practically nil. Secondly, ~~the~~ ^{of land} fragmentation, referred to above, has resulted in a large number of families ^{owning} having very small plots of cultivable land, ^{not} which are inadequate to grow ^{enough} the cereal requirements of the family, ^{for} for ^{period} more than four to six months. Young men, therefore, migrated to Bombay in search of ~~off-season~~ work. In most of the cases, at present, the ~~one~~ seasonal migrants have more or less ~~are~~ settled in the city, and support their families at home by regular monthly remittances. The agriculture in the district is ^{practically} essentially a part-time occupation and has to be supplemented ^{from other sources, chief of which is the} by other receipts, ^{available at} mostly from industrial and domestic employment ⁱⁿ Bombay.

1.15 The survey village, it was reported ^{by some elders of the village,} was founded about 200 years ago by 4 families who used to stay in a village, then called Borchhi Wadi, about 2 miles to the ~~xxx~~ north of the present village ^{site}. The present village was then a low lying swampy area.

Habitation soon increased, each new family ^{or} claiming whatever area they could cultivate. The low-lying lands to the south-west of the village which were ^{generally} submerged under tide water, were converted into salt pans and production of salt came to be one of the main occupations of the village, giving it the present name. The heads of the original four families are still revered. Before the commencement of every religious function of the village deity, a formal worship of the monuments of the above, takes place.

Physical Features :

1.16 The village Mithbav lies approximately on $16^{\circ}-20''$ north latitude and $73^{\circ}-27''$ east longitude. In the north, it is separated from the village Kunakeshwar by a small stream and in the south, by a small river, from the village Hindale. As shown in the map, the eastern boundary of the village touches the village Bagmala.

1.17 The approach road to the village enters the village from the north-east through a ^{hill} mountain pass ^{as shown in the village maps.} A The-hill range divides the diamond-shaped village into two uneven parts, ^{an uneven laterite terrain, while} the northern ^{part} ~~covered with hills and large areas of laterite beds;~~ the southern ^{part} sloping east and westwards, with patches of cultivated fields in between residential localities. ~~To the west is the~~ Arabian sea, ^{from S. the western boundary of} giving the village ^{with} a sea coast of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. To the north ^{west} ~~east~~ the hill ranges protrude into the sea. A little inland to the north and facing the village Kunakeshwar is a resident ^{thal} locality of Mithbav ^{of the village} called Katwan. This wadi can be reached by a Katcha track ^{across} through the hills ^{ranges and the} and then the laterite (^{मुथव}) plains.

The approach road runs through the south-east corner of the village for a distance of one mile and terminates near the village temple. At this point it is met by the main carttrack running east-west through residential localities upto the sea ^{coast} face. From the temple the approach road extends ^{eastward} into a cart track ^{upto} till the river. The portion of this cart track from the market place to the river runs through fields and is closed during the monsoons.

1.18 The main types of trees in the forest are the Ain, (the ^{local} bark of which is used for tanning ^{boiling} fishing nets), the Kindal, Chinch, ~~some local varieties of Mango trees,~~ Undi trees, Cashewnut trees and ~~others used for fire-wood.~~ Most of the fire-wood requirements of the village are supplied by the small hill-forests.

The Mango trees are mainly of a local variety, the fruit being used chiefly for local consumption as fruit and pickles. ^{Decompose} Almost all commercial varieties are exported to Bombay ^{market centres in the plateau} and ^{Madras} ^{hill range} ~~Chennai~~. Cashew-nut trees are found in certain privately owned patches on the southern slopes of the ~~above-hills.~~ The Kindal tree is used for woodwork required in house construction.

The most important tree, however, is the Coconut tree which is ~~regularly~~ cultivated by people in ~~the~~ ^{the space} back-yards or gardens around residential houses. The tree in addition to yielding coconuts, is useful in a variety of ways. The trunk is used in house building; ~~the~~ leaves are burnt as fuel or woven into mats for use ^{as} either roofs or protection against rain. The outer shells of the coconuts ^{are} also useful ^{mainly} either as fuel ^{and} or for the preparation of coir ^{and} wire ropes.

1.19 The laterite plain lands to the north of the village are ^{is} barren except ^{for a scanty} a certain growth of grass which is used as fodder. ^(Used in house construction because of its lightness and oil content.)

This grass gives a small occupation to ^{some of the} ~~the~~ labour families of Mithbav, who cut the grass, bring it to Mithbav on their heads and sell it ^{in the village,} for six to eight annas, per head load. This is done mainly by women during the fair season only. The plains also grow ^{some} ~~a certain~~ kind of thorny bushes, called Kavalkathi locally, ~~which is~~ used as manure, by burning it in cultivable plots. There are no other pastures ^{available for cattle grazing} ~~in the village, which fact~~ ~~compels the~~ (Local cultivators and carters, to send their cattle to interior villages for grazing after the agricultural operations requiring bullock labour are completed. *nn*)

1.21 (As mentioned earlier, the taluka of Devgad lies in a tract receiving 80 to 100 inches of rainfall, on an average.) The village Mithbav, lying on the ^{sea} coast and covered to a great extent by hills and forests, receives ~~a little more~~, between 100 to 120 inches ^{grain} annually on the average. The survey year of 1954-55 recorded a rainfall of 110 inches ~~46 cents~~, distributed principally in the four monsoon months, June, July, August and September; 14 inches ~~27 cents~~ in June, 43 inches ~~25 cents~~ in July, ³¹ 30 inches ~~72 cents~~ in August and 21 inches ~~15 cents~~ in September. A small rainfall of ^{an inch} ~~77 cents~~ was recorded in October. The rainfall was ^{evenly} well distributed on the whole. It was a little more than heavy in the first week of September, endangering the standing rice crop. By the end of the month it was feared that a part of the crop might rot ⁱⁿ ~~due to~~ standing water. These fears were however allayed subsequently, as the rains ~~virtually~~ ceased, allowing the cultivators to attend to ^{the} ~~cutting and harvesting of the crop.~~ ^{and harvesting of paddy}

1.21 This rain water finds its way either to the river in the south or to the sea in the west. The river becomes flooded

occasionally
 during the monsoon, the floodwater ~~sometimes~~ actually entering the fields and damaging the crop. There are three streams running across the village from the hills to the river. These have water only during the rainy season, and as such are useless for purposes of irrigation. A ^ystream running through the plains in the north to the sea, has some water during the summer months. This water is used to grow a small crop of rice and chillies, by putting earthen bunds.

1.22 The nearness to sea, the quantity of rainfall and the laterite ^{soil} rocks have together contributed an adequate water supply to the village. Water is struck at a depth of 8 to 15 feet invariably. The village record lists 472 wells, inclusive of 4 lakes. 275 (208 pucca and 67 kaccha) are used for supply of drinking water, while the remaining 197 (77 pucca and 120 kaccha) are reported as ^{to be} being used for cultivation.

It should be mentioned here that the pucca wells at Mithbav are small in size with a diameter of 8 to 10 feet on an average. They are ^{lined with laterite blocks} ~~constructed with a lining of chira (laterite) blocks, an average well costing between 250 to 300 rupees.~~ Most of the wells are of this average size. Secondly it may be noted that ^{the} those wells listed as used for cultivation are also of the above size, and are used for watering the garden around the residential houses, ^{and summer crops like chillies and kullis.} ~~mainly coconut trees and vegetables.~~

The kaccha wells are virtually ponds, mainly meant for watering the coconut trees, farther away from the house and situated in fields.

All the above-mentioned wells have water throughout the year. However, the water of those that are nearer the river

and creek to the south and south-west of the village, turns yellow during the summer and becomes useless either for drinking or washing. The residents of this area have to fetch water from a distance of 2 to 3 furlongs in certain cases. The village map gives the situation of one well, called the Vaghobachi Vahir, which is used by about 250 to 300 families during summer for supply of drinking water. (The well is about 10 feet deep and was repaired in 1936 with money raised by house to house contributions.) During the summer the yellow water is used, by the families, for watering the garden and the cattle.

1.23 Supply of drinking water along the approach road is adequate, almost each house having a well. The wells to the west of the road, however, are said to go dry for a period of about 2 months during summer. The residents of this area have to fetch drinking water from wells situated in the wadis to the east of the road.

Of the above, 5 are public wells, 3 of which are under the management of the Local Board. Of these ^{three} 2, two are used by ^{the} primary school, the third being ^{situated} in the Mahar locality and used by the Mahars. (One of the remaining public wells is at Tambaldeg and used by the residents and the Fisheries school.)

Lay-out of the village :

1.24 Villages in the district of Ratnagiri do not, as a rule, have a Gavthan. ^{a compact area} The Gavthan is the ~~the~~ area earmarked by the Government for residential purposes only. ~~It is declared as non-agricultural area and is not assessed for revenue purposes.~~

The absence of such Gavthan areas in Konkan villages is presumably due to the hilly nature of the terrain, often criss-crossed by ^{A compact area earmarked by the Government for habitation and construction of houses. It is recorded in the village account books, as non-agricultural area and is not assessed for revenue purposes.}

streams, hillocks and rocks. Residential houses and huts are distributed among localities or Wadis, ^{often} situated in the midst of cultivated fields.

The Lay-out of Mithbav also conforms to this pattern. Almost every house has a surrounding garden plot with coconut, mango and other fruits-yielding trees. Houses stand separate from one another, there being no instance of two or more houses with common walls. In certain crowded localities, every house has a yard of its own, though no garden around it may be found.

1.25 The accompanying map gives the situation of different Wadis, the local name for ~~different~~ residential clusters, as also the situation of temples, schools and other important locations. There are 22 localities according to the village records. The map shows 28 localities, wadis containing even a small number of houses being separately shown.

The first 10 localities are situated on either side of the approach road. The area on the west side of this road is ^{at} a higher level and is mainly residential with few rice fields. The ~~xx~~ area to the east of the road is comparatively lower, with a number of rice fields in between the localities and the hillock and the river forming part of the eastern boundary of the village.

1.26 These 10 ^{appear to have} localities formed the village originally. It ~~may be noted that~~ whole localities bearing the family names of 4 of the 5 principal dignitaries ^{of the village} are situated in this part of the village. These localities are the Ranewadi, the Nare-wada, the Loke-wada and the Jugal-wada, all situated on the western side of the road. The Sutar-wada is also situated on this side, at

the foot of the hills. On the east side of the road are situated the Bhat wadi inhabited by the Brahmins, the second Ranewadi and the Savant-wada and the original Bhandari locality. The area around the temple of the village deity, forming the Deul-Wada is also inhabited by the Bhandaris. (These Bhandari families were the original Bhandari settlers and were respected as such by the Bhandari community in the Shegulwadi locality, near^{er} the sea-shore.)

1.27 At the end of the approach road lies the market area, with the Mhar-wadā to its east. There are rice fields between the market and the river. The approach road extends into a foot-track to the ferry-crossing. All this land is low-lying and is filled with knee-deep water during the monsoons. The Mhar-wadā is situated on a small raised piece of land.

1.28 It is apparent that this part of the village, from the beginning to the end of the approach road was considered more suitable for habitation originally. It is on a higher level, the monsoon waters flowing away to the river and keeping the area dry and accessible. (It may^{be} mentioned in this context, that some wadis viz. Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 etc. were observed to have become in-accessible during the monsoons). ~~It may be seen that~~ the principal primary school, the post office, the village temple and the weekly market ^{are} also lie in this part. With the Mhar-wadā situated at the extreme end of this part, it presents ^{the} a complete layout of a village.

1.29 Localities from 15 to 19, along with 13 and 14 seem to have appeared next. No. 15 is called the Phatakwada, inhabited by the Phatak family included in the 5 principal dignitaries.

The locality called Kond (No.19 in the map) was inhabited by some of the Brahmin families round the turn of the century. (It was reported that they brought the first Gabit families of Mithbav from a village called Mith^mumbri, about 9 miles to the north of the village.) The ^{fishing community of} Gabits, first settled in the Kond locality, later ^{moved on to} settled ~~in~~ the sea-coast. ^{This} The locality is called Tambaldeg (No.27) and is entirely inhabited by the Gabits at present.

1.30 The remaining localities were of a later development. They are situated amidst rice fields and lie in low lands. The Shegulwadi ^{was} is a predominantly Bhandari locality, with the Parits living on the outskirts. The clustering ^{was} is castewise, many of the wadis bearing the names of ~~mix~~ families, predominantly residing in the wadi. The Sonars and the Vaishyas, forming small caste-groups of 11 and 8 respectively, ~~however, are~~ ^{were} distributed in the different wadis, along the cart-track running east-west. ^{The} Some Saraswat Brahmin families ^{have had} had their houses along the approach road or in the Bhandarwada and not in the predominant Brahmin locality of Bhat-wadi.

1.31 The Jogonalwadi and the Sutarwada were crowded localities. Unlike most of the localities, every house in these two localities had no surrounding garden. The apparent reason of crowding was the desire to stay near families belonging ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{an ancient family group} their caste. ~~The inability to extend is due to the fact that~~ ^{the} The locality is ~~was~~ flanked by the hill-range and the approach road ^{and therefore could not} ~~and~~ ^{extend.}

During ~~the~~ recent years, exten^sion has taken place ^{castewise} along the cart-track, connecting the fishermen's locality with the approach road.

The Survey :

Subsidiary notes (P. 100-101)

1.32 The Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, set up a Research Section in Agricultural Economics, at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, to undertake specifically, among other things, continuous study of ^{by surveying} changes in the rural economy ~~by means of~~ a number of selected villages in each year. The Research Section was set up in May 1954.

1.33 The village Mithbav, in the Ratnagiri District of the Bombay State, ^{was} ~~is~~ one of the centres selected by the Institute for purposes of the above survey. The selection was done purposively, the considerations governing this choice being partly practical and partly methodological. As the survey necessitated long-term investigations for the period of a whole year, it was considered advisable, from the point of view of the collection, the nature and the reliability of field data, to station the field staff ^{in the village for a year} and make available to them a reasonably stationary family life.

1.34 It was decided to select a cluster of villages in each of the six districts, so that certain socio-economic features, such as marketing, education, credit facilities, artisan-services etc. which extend much beyond a single village, might be studied. It was also thought that a contrast or a comparison between the conditions existing in the bigger villages and in the surrounding smaller ones, might bring out the character^{istics} ~~isation~~ of both in bold relief.

1.35 For the actual conduct of the inquiry, one investigator was stationed in each of the bigger nuclear villages, for a period of one year. The first of a set of questionⁿaires that

were filled by the field investigator, was the General Family Schedule, which was filled ^m for all the families, resident in the villages, at the time of the survey. These were filled by a local assistant, recruited for the specific purpose, under ^{the} his direct supervision and guidance of the field investigator. The second questionnaire related to the basic data on physical inputs and out-puts in single plots, ^{and covered} all plots cultivated by selected owner-cultivators. Besides ~~the above~~, the sample for this plot-wise survey included all other plots in the related survey numbers. It may be noted here, that an exception was made in the case of Mithbav, as the number of plots in related survey numbers was too large for a single investigator to cope up with; this ^{was due} ~~being due~~ to continuous fragmentation of land, a particular characteristic generally obtained in the coastal districts of Bombay.

1.36 Along with the ~~above~~ plot-wise survey, complete data of the farm business of ¹⁸ the selected owner cultivators, referred to above, ^{were} ~~was~~ obtained. A comprehensive farm-business schedule, ^{the schedules} the third of ~~those~~ used for this survey, was filled ⁱⁿ for the purpose. In addition to the above three, a Labour schedule, in respect of the employment, income and family expenditure of landless labour, was used, covering ~~a total of~~ 25 labour families.

1.37 The village Mithbav, was the nuclear village of a cluster of 3 villages, the other two being, the village Bagmala to the North and the village Hindale to the South. The two villages were subsequently dropped from the scope of the survey for reasons, mainly practical. The nuclear village of Mithbav had a population above 5000, with ~~about~~ 22 widely-spaced wadis

or localities. The fillingⁱⁿ of the general family schedule took almost all the time of the year. Secondly, a special continuous survey of the occupation of fishing was undertaken, ~~this~~ necessitating regular weekly visits by the investigator to the ^{distant} Fishermen's locality. In order to ^{reduce} ~~lessen~~ the burden ^{on} of the investigator, who had to fill the farm-business schedules of ¹⁸ ~~50~~ selected owner-cultivators, ^{ing to} ~~only 25 of whom~~, belonged Mithbav, it was decided to drop ^{from the survey} both the neighbouring villages. The present monograph therefore pertaining only to the village Mithbav.

Do be deleted
not necessary

CHAPTER II

Communities, Social Institutions and Education

(Historical Background):

2.1 Prior to the Survey settlement, which came about during the 1880's, Mithbav was a Khoti village, a system under which the revenue administration of collecting the land assessment was entrusted to one or two prominent and capable families, called Khots. In Mithbav, the khoti rights were held by two Maratha families, the Rane's and the Loke's, these two being helped in their administration by the Jamedar, who actually collected the revenue and the Kulkarni, who kept the accounts. In Mithbav, the Jamedari and Kulkarni rights were held by Saraswat Brahmin families, the Nadkarni's and Rege's respectively. In local terminology, the Khots constituted the Rajsatta, or ^{the} King's Authority. It was reported that the two Maratha families, ^{along with} the Mahajan and the Reges ^{constituted} the 4 Khots of the village. While the political administration was carried on by the committee of the above four, the social administration lay in the hands of the Eara Panch. (the ^{prominent} twelve and the five), a representative council of the families and communities of the village, ~~closely following the caste status.~~ Though all the Twelve were village dignitaries, the five were the principal ones under whose directions, the social administration, as manifest in the conduct of the village temple, was carried on.

both -
Brahmin
families

2.2 These five families belonged to the Marathas, the principal warrior caste. They were the Jogal's, the Nare's, the Phatak's, the Loke's and the Rane's. ~~It was mentioned earlier that~~ the first two, along with two ~~other~~ ^{other Maratha} families, the Jethes and Kubal's, ^{some time later} actually founded the village. ~~It was reported that~~ the latter two conceded all their privileges, the Mankari, rights to the first two Maratha families. To these

To be deleted

not necessary

two were added the Phatak~~s~~ and Loke~~s~~, during the next hundred years.

2.3 All the four were ^{Marathā} Mithgawda families, a section of the larger Maratha caste ^{engaged mainly in carting and cultivation.} The fifth family, the Rane~~s~~, however, claim to belong to the original Maratha caste. The Rane family were, originally, residents of Hindale, the adjoining village to the south of Mithbav. It was reported that they were called upon to render military service, to ward off the invasion of the Dhond's, an ambitious family, residing in the village of Bagmala, the adjoining village to the North. It appears that the Dhond's had routed and annihilated the Jogal family, apparently in power then. The Rane~~s~~, in consideration of certain gifts of land and administrative (Mankari) rights agreed to defend the village against the Dhonds and did so.

2.4 The early 19th century thus had five principal dignitaries who carried on the duties and rights of Purva-satta^{or} the Original Authority, deriving from the Temple itself. As was mentioned earlier, the Rajsatta, or the King's Authority, invested in two Khot families, the Loke's and the Rane's came about later when the British annexed the region. The Khoti privileges went to the above two families presumably because of their superior right at the time.

2.5 The Panch, or the Five families are the main village dignitaries, who used to decide upon the conduct of temple administration in particular and the social behaviour of the village in general. The Council of the Twelve acted upon the decisions given by the Five. It was reported that the above system was in vogue 70 years ago, when the village became a Dharekari or peasant proprietorship village from a Khoti one.

2.6 The composition and the rights and duties of the Twelve Mankaris or dignitories are given below :

The village Council (Gramastha Sabha) or the Bara Panch

The Family Name	Caste	Duties	Remarks
1. Jogal	Maratha	The Inner Council or the Panch deciding upon the code of behaviour and action.	The principal original dignitories.
2. Nare	"		
3. Phatak	"		
4. Loke	"		
5. Rane	"		
6. Loke	Maratha	The Khots entrusted with revenue administration.	These two families had double votes, owing to their position as Khots also.
7. Rane	Maratha		
8. Mahajan (Khadilkar)	Brahmin	Religious Services and advice	The other two Khots.
9. Kulkarni	Brahmin	The village accountant	
10. Ghadi	Ghadi	Religious Services	
11. Shetye	Bhandari	The flagman of the Deity	
12. Mhar	Mahar	The messenger and village servant.	

To be deleted

All the above 12 are called Mankaris or village dignitories. It can be seen that of the 12, 7 were Maratha families, including the two Khot families having double rights.

Communities :

2.7 The main caste-groups of the village, according to their

numerical strength, are the Marathas, the Gabits, the Bhandaris, the Mhars and the Brahmins. ~~The~~ Vaishyas form a small group of 8 families. Artisans like ~~the~~ Sonars and Sutars are also small groups with 11 and 12 families respectively. Their caste is known by their vocation. The remaining small groups are the Parits with 8 families, Devlis 4 families, Telis 3 families and the Chambhars 2 families. * Single families belonging to the Lingayat, the Koshti and the Nhavi communities are engaged in temple service, teaching and barbering respectively. The Blacksmith working at Mithbav does not belong to the village. There are no Kumbhars. It may also be noted here that Mithbav is completely a Hindu village.

2.8 The Marathas with 556 families out of the total of 1130 families, constitute the biggest single caste-group. As reported in the general family schedule, all these belonged to the Kshatra Kulotpanna Maratha caste. ~~Almost all these were, however, were Gardas, a caste believed to be inferior to the original Maratha warrior caste.~~

To be deleted

2.9 Regarding the ^{Marathas or} Gardas, the Ratnagiri Gazetteer observes : "They seem to be a class of Marathas, who formerly held the position of village headmen. They have two divisions, the Gardas, husbandmen and cartmen and the Mit-Gardas, salt makers. The latter, who work on the salt pans of Mithbav, Achra, Malvan, Kochra, Vengurla and Shiravda, hold a degraded position. No Hindus but Mhars will eat from them". (pp.125).

2.10 The ^{group} community is principally divided into 5 families constituting the ^{five} principal dignitaries of the village, ~~the Panes, the Lokes, the Nares, the Joguls and the Phataks.~~ Other main

family groups are the Jathes and the Kubals, ~~the first settlers of the village, who later ceded their rights to the above.~~ As shown in the village-map, whole localities are named after these families.

2.11 Each of the above families has a family deity of its own, housed in a temple in its locality. The number of households in each family having increased, the responsibility of conducting the worship of the deity is entrusted to ~~each family~~ ^{one household} by rotation, every year. This is considered a ^{hereditary} right and a privilege, the household being considered the representative of that family for receiving Mankari ^{honours} ~~rights~~ during that year. According to custom, the undertaking of any religious function in the village required the prior sanction of the Mankaris. The Mankari representatives used to attend all functions and had the honour to receive the first coconut, the act signifying their consent to commence the religious undertaking. It was reported that this system was ^{in vogue in} ~~followed by~~ the village ~~prior to~~ ^{before} the ~~beginning of~~ the Second World War. Since then it was slowly being abandoned, though those belonging to an earlier generation scrupulously observe the traditional formality.

2.12 It was reported that about 50 years ago, there was a larger caste panchayat of the Marathas. In the event of a conflict within the caste or among the major families, the Maratha dignitaries from Achra, Malvan, Kochra, Mithbav etc. used to assemble at one place to settle the conflict. This panchayat has long ceased to function.

2.13 Within the village, the earlier custom was to consult the elders of each of the major families in the event of a

dispute between the households of that family. Disputes of a serious nature resulted in the calling of the Gramastha Sabha or the ^{village} inquiry Council ^{which included} of ~~the whole village~~, including the representatives of the major families as well as ~~the elders~~ from other castes. The practice was termed as "referring the dispute to the Temple", where the elders, conferred and gave justice. The successful functioning of this system, however, depended upon the respect of the disputing parties for the elders, faith in their wisdom and readiness to accept the decisions given by them. In this context, it was expressed that the system has practically fallen into disuse owing to continuous ^{contact with} migration ~~to~~ Bombay and ^{subsequent} absorption of the city's individualistic spirit. Disputing parties at present ^{take} took their dispute either to the Police Patil or to the court of law.

2.14 With the exception of the Ranes, all the six major Maratha families consider themselves blood-relations and as such no inter-marriage is allowed. Marriage relations are contracted with Maratha families from other villages. According to custom, the bridegroom's father had to request the bride's father for the hand of his daughter and had to pay a sum of money to him on his consent. It was, however, reported that of late, the system has undergone a complete change and that it is the bride's father who begins the search ^{for} of the groom and where the latter is holding a sound job, even ^{offers a} gives dowry. The marriage ceremony is performed by a Brahmin priest.

2.15 Communal life is restricted to particular localities as evidenced by the Ehajani Mandalis or groups of devotees conducting ^{religious} religious functions called Nam-Saptahas. A Maratha

locality, called the Harbachi Wadi has such a Bhajani Mandali, ^{owning} possessing a set of musical instruments used for accompaniment during the singing of devotional songs. The set is valued at Rs.150 approximately, ^{and} as is partly owned and partly donated. The Saptaha is held once in a year, the expenses being defrayed from house-to-house collections. A major part of these collections comes from those employed at Bombay.

2.16 The community has no single leader in the village at present. This has been due to the existence of 5 Mankari families, all claiming equal dignity, the continuous migration transferring ~~the~~ educated and intelligent persons to the city of Bombay and the highly individualistic pattern of belief and behaviour that has percolated from that city.

2.17 The table given below, gives the occupational distribution of the 556 Maratha families of Mithbav as reported in the general family Schedule.

TABLE 2-1 OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF MARATHA FAMILIES.

<u>Occupations</u>	<u>No. of families persuing as Main</u>	<u>No. of families as subsidiary</u>
1. Owner-cultivation	218	148
2. Tenant-cultivation	47	17
3. Agricultural Labour	62	67
4. Plantation	2	18
5. Fishing	19	36
6. Tailoring	4	1
7. Clay idols ^{preparation of}	1	2
8. Trading	3	8
9. Transport (Bullock Carts)	4	17
10. Government Services	3	3
11. Medicine	1	-
12. Teachers	18	-
13. Hotels	3	3
14. Other services	7	7
15. Religious services	1	3
16. Pensions	9	6
17. Remittances	147	70
18. Other un productive work	7	4
19. No subsidiary occupation	-	146
Total	556	556

265
165
430

It may be seen that the ^{major} principal occupation followed either as the main or subsidiary occupation of the family, is cultivation. Agricultural labour comes next with almost an equal proportion in the main and subsidiary category. The source of livelihood of a large number ^{is} was remittances received from Bombay. Fishing, educational services, carting and trading were the other occupation followed by the Marathas ~~community~~.

2.13 ~~In the occupation of agriculture,~~ The Marathas are mainly owner-cultivators, to the extent of 85%. They owned 64% of the ^{total} land of the village and ~~also~~ cultivated ^{an equal proportion} ~~about 64%~~ of the total cultivated land. The size distribution of owned and cultivated holdings of this caste is given below :

	Size	Land owned		Land cultivated	
		A	G	A	G
	Upto 10 Gunthas	20	4	22	19
	11-20 "	52	26	49	34
	21-30 "	52	13	59	33
	31-40 "	40	25	42	8
	41-60 "	75	12	48	12
	61-80 "	54	24	39	33
	81-100 "	11	9	17	19
	2½- 5 Acres	115	0	81	0
	6-10 "	68	0	29	0
	11-15 "	13	0	-	-
	Above 15 "	252	0	-	-
	<u>Total</u>	<u>754</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>4</u>

2.17 The Gabits, the fishing community, forms the second major caste-group, with 250 families. An account of this group ^{in Chapter VIII} ~~community~~ is given ~~elsewhere~~ in this report, under the section, 'Fishing Community and Occupation'.

2.20 The Bhandaris are the third major ^{caste group} ~~community~~ of Mithbav. Regarding this community, the Ratnagiri Gazetteer observes : "The name seems to show that they were originally used as treasury guards In social position they (the Bhandaris) are below Marathas, who do not eat with them, nor do Brahmins employ them as house servants. Some of them are cultivators and others sailors, soldiers and police. A few are money lenders and most own coconut trees or are engaged in liquor trade". (pp.124)

2.21 It was reported that there were four families, the Birje, Chougule, Shegulwadkar and Shetye, who were among the first settlers of the village. Two more families, the Wadekars and the Majekars came later. The Bhandaris residents of Mithbav ^{are descendants of either} ~~belong to~~ the above 6 families or their relatives.

2.22 The community is spread throughout the district and is divided into two broad geographical groups, those to the north of Vijaydurg being called the Kite Bhandaris and those to the south being called Hetkari Bhandaris. The Bhandaris at Mithbav belong to the latter group.

2.23 Till recently, the community had a larger caste panchayat consisting of 12 hereditary Panch families, distributed in Mithbav and surrounding villages, ^{namely} Achra, Hindale, Naringre, Bagmala, Kochra, Ja^{va}asanda etc. The panchayat had jurisdiction over about 84 villages round about Mithbav. The panchayat assembled in the village* where the dispute originated, an assembly of about a hundred elders, with the 12 Panchas forming the principal law givers. It heard the evidence and dispensed justice.

2.24 This panchayat, like other caste panchayats, was reported to have fallen into disuse. 25 years ago it used to function actively. A ^{Session of the} bigger caste panchayat was reported to have been held about 20 year's ago when it decided to ostracize an offending member. He later begged forgiveness and was readmitted into the community. Small ^{regional} sessions were reported to have assembled three or four times till 10 years' ago. These were held outside Mithbav. Indifference towards the caste panchayat and its decisions was attributed to migration and the growing independence of youngsters. The panchayat punishments followed the usual pattern of imposing fines, directing the offender to undertake some religious function and in extreme cases, social ostracization.

2.25 Though the whole community in the district was considered endogamous, marriage relationships were not contracted between the two groups referred to above, till recently. The reason, it was reported, was of a practical nature, ^{it} being the differences in codes of behaviour and living. Marriages between the two groups ^{occur} are, however, freely done at present. Persons of the same family name, however, are prohibited from marrying each other. Till about 25 years' ago the groom's father had to begin the negotiation of marriage with the bride's father. The system has gradually given place to the practice of the bride's father requesting the groom's father to accept his daughter into the latter's household. Instances were also reported wherein the bride's father offered dowry where the groom was well educated and held a good salaried job. The marriage ceremony is performed by a Brahmin priest. ^{Maratta} Village dignitaries of

Uage
 are invited and their consent is sought before the beginning of the ceremony. The formality is more conscientiously followed presumably because the community holds an inferior position to the Marathas, socially as well as economically.

2.26 The Bhandari community is principally distributed into the Bhandariwada, the Deulwada along the approach road and the Shegulwadi and Pednekarwadi along the main cart ~~tract~~^{track}. The Bhandari Wada and the Shegulwada have each a Bhajan Mandali, each. Each group possesses a set of musical instruments, partly purchased and partly donated. They cost about 200 rupees ~~for per~~ set. The funds required for conducting the Nam-Saptaha, the annual ^{religious} function, are collected by house-to-house contributions. A major part of these funds was contributed by persons from the locality, employed and staying at Bombay. It was reported that about Rs.600/- are spent annually during this function ~~individually~~ by both the groups ^{individually}. The function culminates in a Mahapuja on the eighth day and a drama is staged by the youngmen of the wadi by way of entertainment and relaxation. Other Bhajani Mandalis from Mithbav as well as from nearby villages are cordially invited to participate in the annual function.

2.27 The occupational classification of the 196 Bhandari families, as reported in the general family schedule, is given below :

TABLE 2.3 OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION OF BHANDARI FAMILIES.

<u>Occupations</u>	<u>No. of families persuing as Main</u>	<u>No. of families persuing as Subsidiary</u>
1. Cultivation (Mainly owner cultivation)	51	54
2. Cultivation (Mainly tenant cultivation)	16	20
3. Agricultural labour	23	25
4. Plantation	--	1
5. Fishing	15	16
6. Tailoring	1	--
7. Processing (rope, bidi manuf.)	1	4
8. Wood sawing	1	5
9. Trading	2	4
10. Bullock cart Transport	-	1
11. Teaching	3	-
12. Government Service	2	-
13. Services (relegious, charitable etc.)	6	3
14. Pensions	8	-
15. Remittances	63	17
16. Unproductive work	4	1
17. No subsidiary Occupation	-	45
<u>Total</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>196</u>

The principal occupation, followed either as main or subsidiary, is cultivation. The next significant numbers are engaged in agricultural labour work. Fishing and salaried services, as teachers and in government department are the other occupations employing a number of families. In subsidiary occupations also, the first three occupations employ almost identical number of families. Nearly a third of the families depend on remittances received from Bombay. Nearly a fourth reported the absence of any subsidiary occupation.

2.28 In agriculture, the Bhandaris are owner-cultivators to the extent of 74%, the remaining 26% being tenant-cultivators. They owned 9.25% of the total owned land and cultivated 15.24% of the total cultivated land. The distribution of owned and cultivated land according to size groups is given below :

Table 2.4
Distribution of owned and cultivated land of the Bhandaris

Size	Land owned		Land cultivated	
	A	G	A	G
Upto 10 Gunthas	11	4	10	4
11-20 "	12	17	14	10
21-30 "	13	10	13	18
31-40 "	13	8	10	14
41-60 "	13	9	25	16
61-80 "	18	38	11	16
81-100 "	4	19	-	-
2½-5 Acres	15	0	8	0
6-10 "	7	0	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>38</u>

2.29 The Mhars, with 47 families, ^{form} from the fourth ^{important} major group numerically. They render certain essential village services, like messenger and carrier services, flaying and disposal of dead cattle, attendance on village officials, ^{etc.} and as such are included in the 12 dignitaries of the village.

2.30 The Mhars at Mithbav form a part of a larger Mhar community distributed in villages within a radius of 20 miles of Mithbav. The caste-panchayat includes twelve hereditary panch families from Mithbav, Hindale, Shirgaon, Jamsanda, Kamta, Naringre, Dabhol, Devgad etc.

2.31 Unlike the caste-panchayats of more advanced ^{castes} communities like the Marathas and Bhandaris, the caste panchayat of the Mhars

was reported to function actively and effectively at present. The panchayat is, however, called only when there is a major dispute as calling the panchayat is a matter of considerable expenditure. It was reported to be held in 1948 and 1953 to discuss the clandestine behaviour of some caste members. The penalties imposed by the panchayat take the form of keeping a sum of money as a deposit with a ^{hereditary} panch as a token of good behaviour, observance of certain religious rites of the village deity and temporary ostracization from the community for a year or so. Occasionally it assumes the form of treating the community to a ceremonial meal. Small disputes are settled by the local headman of the community.

2.31 The Mhars are the lowest in status in the caste hierarchy of the village and are treated as untouchables. The village barber does not serve them. Hair cutting shaving etc. are done by themselves. They are given separate treatment in hotels, a separate and damaged piece of crockery being invariably kept aside for them.

2.32 Though the Mhars of Mithoav have made a formal entry in the village temple about 15 years ago, they do not visit any of the temples ^{as} a practice. They have a deity of their own, called the Mahartal. The expenses of conducting the worship of this deity are shared by all by family contributions.

2.33 Marriage relationships are contracted between families within the community spread in the above mentioned villages. A sum of Rs.120 to 125 is to be presented by the groom's father to the father of the bride, the former also initiating the marriage proposal. About 30 years ago the sum was limited to

Rs.20 only. The right of performing the marriage ceremony is vested in a Mhar family belonging to the village of Naringre. The person is invited to the village where the ceremony is to take place. He is paid Rs.15/- for performing the ceremony.

2.34 Unlike the other communities, the Mhars bury their dead. The religious ceremony connected therewith is performed by a Mhar family at Are. Similarly, the ceremony of purification of a member for re-admitting him into the community is performed by a family at Salas. On such occasions, a sacred pot of water is worshipped and the water is sprinkled on the incoming person. This ceremony usually ends in a community dinner.

2.35 About 15 years ago, the Mhars at Mithbav began sending their children to school. The main reason was the eagerness to secure salaried jobs. Mhars at present, are employed as Talathis and primary ^{school} teachers in the district and as textile labourers and peons at Bombay. There is a Mhar primary teacher at Mithbav.

2.36 The occupational distribution of the Mhar families is given below : *Table 2.5. Occupational distribution of Mhar families*

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>No. of families doing it as Main</u>	<u>No. of families doing it as subsidiary</u>
1. Mainly Owner-cultivation	2	4
2. Mainly Tenant-cultivation	1	4
3. Agricultural labour	17	6
4. Cattle-watching <i>muzzing</i>	1	-
5. Quarrying	10	4
6. Atarki	1	-
7. Rope making	-	2
8. Building construction	4	3
9. Medicine	1	-
10. Teaching <i>service</i>	1	-
11. Village <i>servants</i>	2	-
12. Remittances	7	3
No subsidiary occupation	-	21
<u>Total</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>

The principal occupation of the Mhars is agricultural labour, followed by quarrying and construction. It may be mentioned here that quarrying and construction was entirely monopolised by this community. Dependence on remittances was much less than other castes. About 45% reported that there was no subsidiary occupation.

2.37 In agriculture, the Mhars are tenant-cultivators to the extent of nearly 50%. This is also brought about by the

following table, giving the classification of land owned and land cultivated according to size-group; whereas they owned 44% of the total owned land of the village, they cultivated 1.40% of the total cultivated land.

Table 2.6. Distribution of owned and cultivated land of the Mhars

Size	Land owned		Land cultivated	
	A	G	A	G
Upto 10 Gunthas	2	26	1	22
11-20 "	0	32	3	2
21-30 "	0	24	1	11
31-40 "	1	5	1	0
41-60 "	-	-	-	-
61-80 "	-	-	1	26
<u>Total</u>	5	7	8	21

2.38 There are 30 Brahmin families. Of these 21 belong to the Chitpavan caste whose principal occupation was religious services and cultivation about 30 years ago. With the increase in education, to which the Brahmin took to earlier, the occupation of religious services has diminished. Cultivation and salaried jobs are the principal occupations of this caste. On the average ~~the~~ ^{the} land owned and land cultivated by them is proportionately greater than all other castes in the village. None in this

caste reported agricultural labour as the main or subsidiary occupation.

2.39 The table below gives the occupational breakdown of the caste. *Table 2.7 occupational distribution of Brahmin families.*

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>No. of families pursuing it as Main</u>	<u>No. of families pursuing it as subsidiary</u>
1. Mainly Owner-cultivation	12	8
2. Mainly Tenant-cultivation	--	1
3. Plantation	--	2
4. Trading	--	1
5. Teaching	6	-
6. Tea-shop-keeping	1	-
7. Religious services	3	1
8. Rentier (Non-agri.)	1	-
9. Pensions	3	2
10. Remittances	4	3
No subsidiary occupation	-	12
<u>Total</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>

2.40 The land owned and land cultivated by this community is given in the table below. It may be seen that as compared to those of other castes, the size of holdings of owned and cultivated land are generally bigger. *Table 2.8. distribution of owned and cultivated land of the Brahmins.*

<u>Size</u>	<u>Land owned</u>		<u>Land cultivated</u>	
	<u>A</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>G</u>
Upto 10 Gunthas	0	10	-	-
11-20 "	-	-	0	34
21-30 "	3	0	3	12
31-40 "	1	0	2	0
41-60 "	2	25	-	-
61-80 "	4	0	2	0
2½-5 Acres	18	0	18	0
6-10 "	41	0	12	0
11-15 "	11	0	11	0
Above 15 "	125	0	30	0
<u>Total</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>6</u>

2.41 details as regards the community and land ownership of Sutaras and Sonars (carpenters and goldsmiths), the two important artisan groups of the village, are given in chapter V, in the case study of the respective occupations.

2.42 The Vaishyas are a small group of 8 families and constitute the main trading class. As a class, they are well off economically. The occupational distribution, given below, shows that of the eight, as many as seven are engaged in some trading activity or other. *Table 2.9. Occupational distribution of Vaishya families.*

Occupation	No. of families	
	<u>persuing it as Main</u>	<u>persuing it as subsidiary</u>
1. Mainly Owner-cultivation	1	2
2. Mainly Tenant-cultivation	1	1
3. Trading	5	2
4. Teaching	1	-
No subsidiary occupation	-	3
Total	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

2.5 The holdings of land owned and land cultivated according to size are given below: *Table 2.10. Distribution of owned and cultivated land of the Vaishyas.*

Size	Land owned		Land cultivated	
	<u>A</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>G</u>
Upto 10 gunthas	0	36	0	6
11-20 "	0	38	0	34
21-30 "	0	25	0	25
2½- 3 Acres	3	0	3	0
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>25</u>

2.44 There are 8 parit families engaged mainly in agriculture and fishing. The occupational distribution is given below:

Table 2.11 Occupational distribution of parit families.

Occupation	No. of families	
	<u>persuing it as Main</u>	<u>persuing it as subsidiary</u>
1. Mainly Owner cultivation	4	-
2. Mainly Tenant cultivation	1	-
3. Agricultural labour	2	1
4. Fishing	1	6
No subsidiary occupation	-	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

2.45 Table below gives the land owned and land cultivated

by this community according to size groups :

Table 2.12
distribution of owned
and cultivated land
of the parits

Size	Land owned		Land cultivated	
	A	G	A	G
Upto 10 Gunthas	0	8	0	3
11-20 "	0	33	-	-
21-30 "	-	-	1	10
31-40 "	-	-	0	36
41-60 "	1	1	3	0
2½-5 Acres	6	0	-	-
Total	8	2	5	9

2.46 The Devlis and Telis are very small groups of 4 and 3 families respectively. The occupational distribution and the land owned and land cultivated of the 4 Devli families are given in the following tables: *2.13. occupational distribution of Devli families.*

Occupation	No. of families	
	persuing it as Main	persuing it as subsidiary
1. Mainly Owner cultivation	1	1
2. Agricultural Labour	1	-
3. Plantation	1	-
4. Trading	1	-
5. Wood sawing	-	1
No subsidiary occupation	-	2
Total	4	4

Table 2.14
distribution of owned
and cultivated land
of devlis.

Size	Land owned		Land cultivated	
	A	G	A	G
Upto 11 Gunthas	0	3	-	-
31-40 "	0	32	-	-
2½- 5 Acres	5	0	4	0
6-10 "	6	0	-	-
Total	11	35	4	0

2.47 All the three Teli families are dependent on salaried jobs; one being that of the Talathi and the other two depending on remittances. Two ^{lies} family do cultivation as a subsidiary occupation. The land owned and land cultivated is given below in size groups : *Table 2.15. Distribution of owned and cultivated land of Telis*

<u>Size</u>	<u>Land owned</u>		<u>Land cultivated</u>	
	<u>A</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>G</u>
Upto 10 Gunthas	0	4	-	-
11-20 "	-	-	-	-
21-30 "	0	25	0	25
31-40 "	1	0	1	32
Total	1	29	2	17

Income and occupation

The table given below gives the castewise classification of families dependent on remittances received from Bombay either as main or subsidiary sources of income as also the proportion to the total number of families in the caste. It must be mentioned here that the following families are those who reported that they received remittances as the main or subsidiary source of livelihood in the general family schedule. Actually 696 families reported receipt of remittances, of which 411 or 59% reported it as the main or subsidiary source of livelihood. The table also gives the proportions of these families to individual caste totals.

Table 2.16 Caste-wise classification of families receiving remittances. 38

<u>Caste</u>	<u>No. of families in village</u>	<u>No. of families "Main"</u>	<u>% age to total</u>	<u>No. of families "subsidiary"</u>	<u>% age to total</u>
Marathas	556	147	26.43	70	12.58
Gabits	250	75	30.00	17	6.80
Bhandaris	196	63	32.14	17	8.67
Mhars	47	7	14.90	3	6.38
Brahmins	30	4	13.33	3	10.00
Sutars	12	-	-	1	8.33
Sonars	11	2	18.18	-	-
Teli	3	2	66.66	-	-
1105		300		111	

2.49 The income distribution of all castes is given below. These incomes include all types of incomes of the families, namely those from, main and subsidiary occupations, independent occupations, agricultural and non-agricultural rent receipts, receipts from garden produce and remittances. The table is given in order to bring out the pattern and magnitude of incomes in different castes.

Table 2.17 Income distribution According to Castes.

Income Groups	Brahmin	Vaishya	Maratha	Bhandari	Gabit	Sutar	Koshti	Sonar	Nhavi	Paris	Gurav	Devli	Teli	Mhar	Chambha
50-150	-	-	84	32	33	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	14	-
151-250	3	1	140	54	76	2	-	3	-	3	-	1	-	17	2
251-350	3	-	100	33	49	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	-
351-450	-	1	84	28	38	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	4	-
451-550	1	7	43	14	18	1	5	-	-	-	8	-	2	1	2
551-650	4	2	24	7	11	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
651-750	-	1	19	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
751-850	2	-	18	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
851-950	-	-	12	2	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
951-1050	5	11	10	5	1	-	6	1	3	-	1	-	2	-	4
1051-1150	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1151-1250	4	1	5	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1251-1350	3	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1351-1450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1451-1550	-	7	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
1551-2050	2	2	3	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
2051-2550	2	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2551 & above	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not given	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	30	8	556	196	250	12	1	11	1	8	1	4	3	47	2

Table 2.18. Caste-wise classification of average per family income and proportion of earnings of each caste to total income.

2.50 In order to get a clearer idea of the income pattern, a separate table is given below. It gives the total incomes reported by each caste-group, its proportion to the total and the average per-family income in each caste.

<u>Caste</u>	<u>No. of families total</u>	<u>% to total</u>	<u>Total family income Reported</u>	<u>% to total</u>	<u>Average per family income</u>	<u>% age proportion to village average</u>
Brahmin	30	2.66	32400	7.14	1080	268.65
Vaishya	8	.71	5700	1.25	712	177.11
Maratha	556	49.21	222200	48.89	399	99.25
Bhandari	196	17.35	71100	15.65	363	90.30
Gabit	250	22.13	871,00	19.17	348	86.57
Sutar	12	1.06	6400	1.41	533	132.59
Koshti	1	.08	1200	.26	1200	—
Sonar	11	.97	7800	1.71	709	176.37
Barbar	1	.03	600	.13	600	—
Parit	8	.71	2100	.46	262	65.17
Gurav	1	.08	1200	.26	1200	—
Devli	4	.35	2300	.51	575	143.03
Teli	3	.26	1800	.39	600	—
Mhar	47	4.17	12200	2.69	259	64.43
Chambhar	2	.18	400	.08	200	49.55
Total	1130	100.00	454500	100.00	402	100.00

It may be seen from the table that the major caste of Marathas alone approximates the average family income for the village. The average incomes earned by the Brahmins are nearly two and a half times the village average. They are followed by the Vaishyas, the Sonars, the Devlis and the Sutars. These lower than the village average are found, in a descending order, in

Bhandaris, Gabits, the Parits, the Mhars and the Chambhars. Average incomes of the Koshti, Barber, Gurav and the Teli families are not taken into account as the number of families in these castes is very small. It may however be seen that all these fall well over the average village income.

2.51 The proportions of land owned and land cultivated by each caste ^{are in the table} ~~is~~ given below. The per family holding of owned land and cultivated land is also given. The total area of the village, however, does not agree with that recorded in village records because the reporting heads of families seldom knew the correct size of land either owned or cultivated by them.

Never-theless the tables gives the general pattern of ownership and cultivation. ^{Table 2.19} *Caste wise classification of land owned and cultivated and average per family holdings.*

Caste	Total No. of families	% age to total	Total land owned		Average per family holding (owned) Acres	Total land cultivated		Average per family holding (cultivated) land
			A	G		A	G	
✓Brahmin	30	2.66	205-35	17.54	6.86	79- 6	12.97	2.64
✓Vaishya	8	.71	5-19	.46	.68	4-25	.75	.58
✓Maratha	556	49.21	754-33	64.28	1.36	390- 4	63.92	.70
✓Bhandari	196	17.35	108-25	9.25	.55	92-38	15.24	.47
✓Gabit	250	22.13	55-32	4.75	.22	9- 3	1.49	.03
✓Sutar	12	1.06	1-27	.14	.14	3-20	.57	.29
✓Sonar	11	.97	12-15	1.05	1.12	9-17	1.55	.86
✓Parit	8	.71	8- 2	.68	1.00	5- 9	.85	.65
Gurav	1	.08	3- 0	.25	3.00	1-15	.22	1.37
Devali	4	.35	11-35	1.01	2.97	4- 0	.65	1.00
Teli	3	.26	1-29	.15	.57	2-17	.39	.72
✓Mhar	47	4.17	5- 7	.44	.11	8-21	1.40	.18
Total 1126			1174-19		1.04	610-15		.54

The table brings out certain salient features of land ownership and land cultivation. Firstly it may be seen that

the average family holding of owned land is largest in Brahmins followed by the Marathas, Sonars and Parits; the average for the Gurav family and the 4 Devli families not being taken into account because of the smallness of their size, ^{in the total number of families} The above four castes own land either equal to the average for the village or above. Those owning less ^{the village} than the village average are, in a descending order, the Waishyas, Bhandaris, Gabits, the Sutars and the Mhars.

A comparison between the village average of cultivated land with the average ^{per} family cultivated holdings ⁱⁿ of different ^{groups} castes, shows almost an identical pattern with the exception of the Gabits. The land cultivated by the Gabits is disproportionately small compared to the land owned by them; the reason being that this caste is mainly engaged in fishing.

Secondly the table, in a general way reflects the nature of cultivation done by each caste. With the exception of three, the Sutars, the Telis and the Mhars, all the castes are mainly owner-cultivators, ^{to the extent of 50% and more.}

2.52 The table ^{below} gives the percentage distribution of the present families, engaged in their traditional occupations :

Table 2.20 Caste wise distribution of families in to traditional occupation.

Castes	Traditional calling	Religious service	Agriculture	Trading	Gold smithy	Carpentry	Fishing	Village services	Total (% of total families)	Balance engaged in other occupations
Brahmins	Religious services	6.7	40.0	(3.3)	-	-	-	-	1.2	1.4
Vaishyas	Trading	-	25.0	62.5	-	-	-	-	.6	.1
Sonars	Goldsmithy	-	36.4	-	45.5	-	-	-	.8	.2
Sutars	Carpentry	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	1.0	.0
Marathas	Cultivation	-	62.6	.5	-	-	(3.4)	-	31.0	18.1
Bhandaris	Cultivation	-	56.6	1.0	-	-	(7.6)	-	9.5	7.9
Gabits	Fishing	-	2.4	16.0	-	-	44.0	-	13.8	8.3
Mahars	Village services	-	44.7	-	-	-	-	(10.6)	1.8	2.3

- 59-7 38 '3
1. Figures in brackets denote families persuing the occupations as subsidiary ones.
 2. The last 2 cols. denote percentage to the total ^{number (1130)} No. of families whereas others are % ages of caste totals.

In the above table the term traditional occupations has been used in a dual sense, meaning the traditional occupations of the particular castes and those ^{that were} available in the village traditionally. In the latter sense, the table gives the castewise divergence of occupations in a restricted manner. It can be seen that excepting the Sutars, all other castes except those who were traditionally cultivators, have taken to cultivation ^{to} a significant ^{degree} measure. The more note-worthy of these are the Brahmins and the Mahars. Where as on the aggregate the proportion of those engaged in the traditional occupation of the castes comes to 52.4, that of families engaged in traditionally available occupations comes to 59.7.

A comparison of the last two columns brings out the extent of castewise divergence from the traditional occupations of the village. In a ^Sdescending order, those castes that have changed their occupations are the Mahars, the Brahmins, the Bhandaris, the Gabits and the Marathas.

2.53 The table given below gives the occupational distribution of the remaining families belonging to the above five major castes. *Table 2.21. Occupational distribution of major caste groups in non-traditional occupations.*

Castes	Salaried service (Local)	Pensions salaried services (outside)	Tea shop keeping	Tailoring	Other Processing	Other occupations
Brahmins	6	7	1	-	-	4
Marathas	21	156	7	4	-	17
Bhandaris	5	71	2	1	1	9
Gabits	7	77	-	2	1	7
Mahars	3	7	-	-	14	2

(construction)

Of the total of 42 in column 2, 35 are employed as teachers in the village, the rest constituting servants^{employed} in the Village Panchayat, the Police and the Postal departments. The increase in educational facilities brought employment opportunities and it is found that all the above caste took to teaching, though in varying degrees.

In column 3, the total of 318 is made up of 22 families living on pensions and 296 on remittances received from outside the village, mostly from Bombay. As has been observed earlier, migrating to Bombay in search of employment and subsequent settling there, has been the most significant divergence from traditional occupations.

The occupations of tea-shopkeeping and tailoring have been of more recent origin and may be traced in the increased migrations from Mithbav, greater cash incomes and regular remittances from Bombay.

The Bhandari family in column 6, is engaged in sawing. Actually there are ^{more} 12 families who are engaged in this occupation; only one, however, has reported it as the main occupation. The Gabit family in this column runs a floor mill. Though placed under this column, the 14 Mahar families are not engaged in any type of processing as such. They are engaged in quarrying and construction.

The last column of 'other occupations' includes a variety of occupations, including beggar and distress families.

Balutedari or the system of customary payments in kind :

2.54 The system of ^{working for} customary payments in kind has been

2.56 All the above 12 are, however, not found in the Konkan or coastal districts of Bombay. The Ratnagiri Gazetteer (1880), in this context observes : "Generally the only village servants are the Mahars, the Guravs and the Ghadis. The first officers stated that no such municipal village establishments as the Bara Balute had ever, even by tradition, been known in the Konkan. Further inquiry showed several traces of former village establishments". (Footnote pp.222).

2.57 The balutedars that served the Konkan villages numbered six only. They were the Sutar, the Nhavi, the Mahar, the Gurav, the Lohar and the Chambhar. The Kumbhar or the pottér did not work for the customary payments. Ropes were prepared by the cultivators ^{themselves} out of ^{cork} ~~evir~~, available in abundant quantities. The need for the services for the other four, the Ramoshi, the Parit, the Mulani and the Koli were not felt.

2.58 Of the six balutedars that were found in the Konkan, the last two, the Lohar and the Chambhar often worked for cash and not baluta; the reason presumably being comparatively small need for the Lohar's services and the absence of leather water-lifts.

2.59 In the village under survey, there were only three balutedars, the Sutar, the Mahar and the Gurav. The Lohar was a resident of a nearby village who worked in Mithbav for about 7 months in a year. He always worked for cash. The Chambhar, who prepared shoes alone was never a balutedar. There were 4 classes of temple ^{ministrants}, the Gurav, the Pujari, the Devli and the Ghadi, all of whom were entitled to baluta by tradition.

2.60 An additional type of balutedar was found at Mithbav. He was the ferryman who carried passengers of Mithbav and Hindale across the river ferry between the two villages.

2.61 Prior to the beginning of the Second World War, the system was reported to be functioning satisfactorily in the sense that all the balutedars got their customary dues every year with small exceptions. The Sutars, who had a claim to supply all wood requirements of the attached ^{cultivator-} household, reported that their rights were acknowledged and all such work was given to them. Those who rendered religious service reported that they collected almost all their dues. The ferryman also reported likewise.

2.62 During the year of survey, the system was seen to have fallen into gradual disuse. A brief description of the working of the system is given below :

The Sutars :

2.63 The only balutedar rendering artisan services at Mithbav is the Sutar. His customary service consists mainly of repairs to agricultural implements namely repairing and reconditioning the plough, the plough-handle, the yoke etc. and of repairing and replacing handles of spades, axes, knives, sickles etc. The preparation of a new yoke or plough handle is charged separately in cash and is not included in customary services. The ^{average} implement holding ^{of cultivators} being scanty, the ^{repairs} services are few and therefore are paid ^{in cash} as such. The Sutar baluta is fixed at 4 payalees of paddy, valued at Rs.2-10-0 per annum per family receiving such services.

2.64 The Sutars reported that the number of such families has dwindled to less than a half of their number during the

last generation. The number of cultivator families attached to individual sutars has also consequently decreased. The decrease was also partly due to the increase in the number of Sutar families, during the last 25 years. There were only 4 Sutar families prior to the 30's. The number has now increased to twelve. According to reports of a cross-section of Sutar families, they did customary repair work for from 1-15 households. A carpenter aged 80, reported that he used to work for about a hundred ^{cultivator -} families about 20 years ago. These however got divided among ~~x~~ other Sutar families after his retirement from the occupation. A number of these ^{cultivator -} families began getting their repair work done for cash.

2.65 The table below gives the implement holding of the 12 cultivating families out of the 18 Khatedars selected for farm business study. It also gives the cash expenditure incurred on repairs, and the Sutar baluta paid.

Table 2.22
implementing
holding and
repair expenditure
of selected cultivators.

Serial No.	Ploughs No.	Ploughs Present value	Other implements non-wooden	Other implements requiring repairs by carpenter.	Repair expenditure in cash	Customary dues paid to the Sutar	
1	-	-	9-10-0	15-0-0	0-8-0	-	
2	1	3-0-0	0-12-0	25-0-0	2-0-0	2-10-0	4 Payalees of paddy
3	2	20-0-0	25-0-0	51-8-0	3-0-0	2-10-0	"
4	3	15-0-0	25-8-0	23-0-0	1-8-0	2-10-0	"
5	2	20-0-0	19-0-0	7-4-0	4-0-0	-	-
6	1	8-0-0	6-8-0	57-8-0	2-8-0	2-10-0	4 Payalees of paddy
7	1	10-0-0	39-8-0	9-4-0	2-0-0	10-8-0	
8	-	-	2-4-0	5-4-0	-	-	
9	3	20-0-0	10-8-0	15-8-0	10-0-0	-	
10	-	-	6-0-0	7-4-0	-	-	
11	-	-	9-8-0	11-8-0	1-0-0	-	
12	1	6-0-0	1-0-0	6-8-0	0-8-0	-	

102-0-0

234-8-0
102-0-0
336-8-0

27-0-0

The increased practice of getting repairs for cash can be observed in the above table. Of the 8 families reporting the ownership of ploughs, only 4 paid baluta due to the Sutars. With the exception of the last cultivator, all reported cash expenditure on repairs of ploughs. There being no fixed rates for different types of repair work, agriculturists often engaged a needy Sutar who repaired the ploughs for a rupee or two.

2.66 As observed earlier, the carpenter attached to a cultivating household had, by tradition, a prior right of service in all other requirements of woodwork required by that household. It was reported that this right was not acknowledged at present, the cultivating household being guided by motives of economy. The Sutars accepted the responsibility for this state of affairs, which was due to lack of unity among themselves. No action was taken by them jointly whenever such breaches of traditional rights occurred.

2.67 Prior to the second World War, the practice of payment of the customary dues was to give the dues on the threshing floor. The Sutars have now to go to the house of the attached household for collecting his dues. Often he has to go twice or thrice, payment being postponed for the *flimsiest* of reasons. Payment depends on the yield from agriculture and the Sutars reported that they got full dues and also arrears during a plentiful year from those who were aware of their dependence on the Sutar's services and who respected the tradition. The Sutars also had the customary privilege of getting a coconut from each of their attached households on religious festivals like the Ganesh Chaturthi, Nagpanchami, Holi, etc. Since the War, this custom has almost stopped.

The Ferryman :

2.68 Another balutedar rendering service of an individual type was the ferryman who operated the boats for crossing the ferry between Mithbav and Hindale. For a payment, fixed by custom, of 1 payalee each of paddy from every household of both the villages, he has to carry all persons belonging to the two villages, across ^{the} ~~to~~ ferry.

2.69 Actual payment however differed with the type of occupation of the paying household. He gets paddy from cultivators, oil from Oilmen (2 lbs per household), Gul from Vaishyas traders (2 lbs.), coconuts from Mahar families (2 per family) and barge poles from Brahmins who are not cultivators.

2.70 The ferryman reported that he used to receive his customary dues regularly and fully prior to the beginning of War. He used to collect his dues on the threshing floor itself. The system has been deteriorating since. He has now to collect a seer, even $\frac{1}{2}$ of a seer, of paddy from some households, according to the divisions of the single original household. He has to go from house to house collecting the small grain receipts and is often asked to come again. Some even refuse to pay anything whatsoever on the plea that they never have occasion to cross the river.

2.71 He reported collection, in an average year, of about 150 rupees worth of commodities from Mithbav. Of these paddy formed the principal kind payment, worth about Rs.120. The remaining receipts were comprised of 125 coconuts worth Rs.20, Gul 8 lbs (Rs.2) and oil 6 lbs (Rs.3).

2.72 He also collects contributions in cash for constructing boats ^{once in two years} required for operating the ferry, ~~once in two years~~. The contributions vary from annas 4 to a rupee per household, many contributing nothing at all. The collections amount to about Rs.50/- from Mithbav.

The Religious Ministrants :

2.73 The Gurav, the Pujari, the Devli and the Ghadi are the remaining balutedars at Mithbav. All the four render religious services such as performing the worship of different dieties and looking after the upkeep of the temples.

2.74 The Gurav is a lingayat and is in charge of the worship and other ceremonial duties of Rameshwar, the principal deity of Mithbav. ^{His} ~~He~~ is the only Gurav family in the village.

2.75 As in the case of the ferryman, the customary payment to the Gurav and other temple servants, has been fixed at 4 seers or 1 payalee of paddy per Khata or cultivating household. Before 1939, the Gurav reported collection of 1½ maunds (24 payalees) of paddy every year. He now collects less than half the quantity (about 10 payalees). He reported that about 50 households observe the custom. There being 4 different types of temple — servants who are to be paid, a practice has been evolved, of paying ^u ~~all~~ customary dues to one type only. Custom has thus apportioned the households of the village between the 4 types, each type collecting from particular households only. The Gurav thus gets his dues from 10 to 12 households. He does not approach other households, ~~who are known, by experience, to postpone payment.~~ Presumably he does not feel it worth while to make a practice of visiting all the households and collect only

about 10 payalees of paddy as he has an income of 3 Khandis (Rs.700 approx.) from land and about Rs.300 from a subsidiary occupation of preparing clay idols.

2.76 On Amavasya (new moon) days, he goes through the village collecting rice in observance of custom. During the pre-ration days, the collection of rice used to amount to about 6 payalees during a year. At present he collects about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a payalee only.

2.77 The customary payments are the same and follow the same pattern as the Gurav, in the case of the remaining 3 temple servants.

2.78 There are two Pujari families, each having its turn of performing the religious rites of the Deity Ravalnath, every alternate year. He reported collection of 1 maund of paddy annually. On new moon days he collects about 4 seers of rice. He reported that he used to get 25 rupees in cash and $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of rice by way^{of} offerings to the deity during religious festivals of the village deity. According to him, the custom is falling into disuse, owing to the growing poverty of agriculturists.

2.79 There are 3 Ghadi families, who look after the worship of Gajaba devi, the oldest deity of Mithbav, with her temple situated on the sea-face about 3 miles away. Of these two have turns in alternate years, the third family having its turn in the 14th year. The Ghadi reported that there were about 90 families who observed the custom of baluta payments, regularly. Due to divisions in the original family, the baluta custom of 1 payalee has decreased in size, often to a fraction of a seer. He reported collection of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of paddy annually and about 3 seers of rice on new moon days.

2.80 The Devli, the temple servant proper, cleaning the temple and looking after lighting etc., reported a collection of 3 maunds of paddy by way of baluta payments, at the rate of about 1 seer per household. He reported that many household do not pay at all.

2.81 The Mhars or village servants, were an important class of balutedars. Like other balutedars, the Mhars also used to get their customary payments at the rate of 1 payalee of paddy per khata, or ownership account in the village records. Performing an important service in the village administration, they appear quite early to have become conscious of their right to ^{receive} full baluta payments and the growing reluctance of the local cultivators to make the payment. They, therefore, appealed to the Government to look into the matter, nearly 30 years ago. The Government consulted the village and with its consent decided to alter the character of baluta payments, which was the customary right of the Mhars. Payments, in kind were abolished and in its place a compulsory baluta levy of 0-0-3 pies per rupee of assessment (including local fund) was instituted. This levy was to be collected by the Talathi along with land revenue and was to be paid to the Mhars. The procedure has been followed since. On an average, the baluta levy amounted to Rs.80/- approximately. This is divided equally by the 5 Mhar servants ^{in duty every year,} 4 working for the village officials like the Talathi and the Police Patil by turns and one serving the village generally.

The Gram Panchayat, Mithbav :

2.82 Prior to the Gram Panchayat the social administration of the village was in the hands of a council of village Elders, locally called the Bara Panch, described elsewhere. As noted therein its influence was gradually decreasing owing to increase in education, contact with the city of Bombay and the gradual evolution of an individualistic character of the villagers.

2.83 The Panchayat was formed in June 1941 and has an experience of 13 years of administration. The election of the present members took place in October 1952. The village was divided into 4 wards for this purpose. The election was carried out, by a show of hands, in the presence of the Mamlatdar of the Davgad Taluka.

2.84 A majority of Panchayat members are supporters of the congress party. The Panchayat, it was reported, endeavours to get an equitable representation of all castes in the village. Members from each ward generally represent the major caste-group of that ward.

2.85 The Panchayat ~~of~~ is constituted of 15 members including 3 reserve seats. Two of these are ~~xx~~ reserved for ladies and one for a representative of the Mhar community.

2.86 The Panchayat gets its income from 3 sources; firstly grants from the State and the District Local Board; secondly from taxes levied by the Panchayat itself and lastly from other receipts ^{such as} from fines, rent ~~and hire~~ charges etc.

2.87 The State sanctions 15% of the revenue collections of the village, towards the expenses of the Panchayat. The Mithbav Panchayat, under this grant, got Rs.726-10-0 for the

- 4 -

1953-54 the previous year of this survey. Other State contributions include 75% of the Panchayat Secretary's salary ~~amounting to Rs.774-4-0~~ and 50% of the dearness allowance of other servants of the Panchayat amounting to about Rs.170, the total amounting to Rs.774-4-0 for 1953-54. The District Local Board sanctions a grant of Rs.680/- from the Local Board cess collected by the Talathi at the rate of annas 3 per rupee of land revenue. The Panchayat is sanctioned ^{ed} a part of the total local board cess at the rate of 2 annas per head of population, the total amounting to Rs.680/-.

2.88 The two major taxes levied by the Panchayat are the house tax and the tax on trading and other occupations. The house tax is levied ad-velorem, at 4 annas percent ^{of the estimated value.} In 1953-54, the Panchayat collected Rs.712-4-0. From trading and occupations, it received Rs.230-0-0. All trading establishments, tailors and other shops had to pay a tax of Rs.5/-, the flour mills and the silica mine paying at the rate of Rs.25 per establishment ^{and Rs.10/- respectively}

2.89 The Panchayat levies a marriage ^{tax} at the following rates based on the expenditure incurred on marriages.

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Tax</u>
Upto 200	0-8-0
200 to 500	1-0-0
500 to 1000	2-0-0
Above 1000	5-0-0

Other taxes levied are ^{the} tax on adoption and ceremonial feasts. The tax is related to the value of the property in the former case and on the actual expenditure incurred in the latter case. The rates are as follows :

<u>Adoption Tax</u>		<u>Feasts</u>	
<u>Value of Property</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Tax</u>
500 to 1000	0-8-0	50 to 100	0-8-0
1000 to 2000	1-0-0	100 to 250	1-0-0
2000 to 5000	2-0-0	250 to 500	2-0-0
Above 5000	5-0-0	Above 500	3-0-0

The receipts from the above taxes amounted to Rs.37-0-0 during 1953-54.

2.90 Other receipts included penalties imposed on owners of straying cattle, interest on the Panchayat money in the Postal Savings Bank audit recoveries etc. and amounted to Rs.181.

2.91 Against the above receipts, the expenditure has been as follows for that year. The salaries of servants amounted to Rs.1436, Office contingencies and travelling expenses Rs.350, new developmental construction Rs.235, current expenditure on utilities Rs.352 and general contingencies Rs.146.

2.92 The following table gives the proportions of expenditure under the above categories for the previous three years. The proportions of expenditure to income for the

3 years is also given. *Table 2.23. proportionate distribution of panchayat expenditure.*

<u>Expenditure heads</u> (Grouped)	<u>1951-52</u>	<u>1952-53</u>	<u>1953-54</u>
Salaries of staff	36.98	46.37	57.00
Establishment Contingencies	8.46	10.70	13.90
General Contingencies	1.09	10.43	5.79
Total operative expenditure	46.53	67.50	76.69
New construction development	-	.41	9.34
Current expenditure on utilities sanitation, lighting etc.	53.47	32.09	13.97
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total Receipts - actual Rs.	2589	3863	3511
Total Expenditure actual Rs.	2740	1926	2519
Proportion of Expenditure to Receipts.	105.83	49.85	71.74

It may be seen that the operative costs have been increasing during the previous 3 year. In 1953-54 they were more than $\frac{1}{3}$ th the total expenditure incurred by the Panchayat. Expenditure on utilities like ^{to sanitation} and lighting has decreased from 53.47% in 1951-52 to 13.97% in 1953-54. This is due to discontinuation of street lighting, consequent to wanton destruction of the street light by certain miscreants in the village, who were hostile towards some Panchayat members. The table shows that expenditure on new construction such as bridges and roads and gutters has commenced from 1953-54.

2.93 The Panchayat decided to have street lights in 1951-52. It purchased 18 lamps at a cost of Rs.450. The installation of the lamps cost another Rs.450. These arrangements continued to be utilised satisfactorily for a period of about 18 months. All lights except one in the market square were withdrawn thereafter owing to above incidents of breaking the lamps and stealing the chimneys. The Panchayat decided to utilise the budgetted expenditure on street lighting for improving the principal cart tract running east-west across the village.

2.94 The administration of the Panchayat is conducted by the Sarpanch, helped by a Deputy Sarpanch. The Panchayat has three committees, the School Committee, the Nyaya Committee and the Health Committee.

2.95 The Panchayat met 22 times in 1953-54, the year previous to the survey. There was no record of adjournment of a meeting due to lack of quorum. Though it is found that all the members cannot attend every^{meeting}thing on account of their vocations, most of them try to attend as many meeting as they

can. All those present participate in the discussions.

2.96 In 1954-55, the Panchayat met 27 times. The monthly frequency of its meetings during the year are given below. The average attendance was 11 to 12 members throughout. The attendance as well as the frequency of its meetings reflect the Panchayat's consciousness to its duties.

Table 2.24
Frequency of
Panchayat
meetings during
1954-55

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of meetings</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of meetings</u>
April 1954	2	October 1954	1
May 1954	3	November 1954	1
June 1954	4	December 1954	3
July 1954	2	January 1955	3
August 1954	1	February 1955	2
September 1954	2	March 1955	3

Total 27

2.97 The following were the principal subjects discussed by the Panchayat during the year. They reflect the scope and interest of the duties of the Panchayat.

1. Budget and taxation for the current.
2. Monsoon repairs of bridges and roads.
3. Street lighting.
4. Construction of building for a library and a pucca bridge.
5. Trouble created by monkeys- appointment of a hunter.
6. Development schemes for the next year.
7. Request for a dispensary for the village to the District Local Board.
8. Appointment of committees, nomination of a Panchayat representative to the district panchayat conference.
9. Appointment of Warrant Officer to collect taxes and that of village watchman.
10. Administrative matters.

2.98 The permanent expenditure incurred by the Panchayat is mainly comprised of the salaries of its servants and

- 2 -

contingencies, as noted earlier. The Panchayat has the following servants.

			<u>Annual Expenditure</u>
1.	Secretary	1 Salary Rs.65 p.m.	Rs.780
2.	Peon	1 Salary Rs.40 p.m.	Rs.480
3.	Sweeper	1 Salary Rs. 8 p.m.	Rs. 96
4.	Contingencies		Rs.300

1156

2.99 The Panchayat has not levied a tax on the weekly market. It has resolved to do so from 1955-56. At present the market place is swept and ^{kept} clean by the Panchayat

^{the proposed} Sweeper ^{of levying market tax} twice a week and on other important occasions. For ^{acquisition} this purpose, the Panchayat contemplated the acquisition of land where the weekly market assembles at present and which is owned by a private individual. If it were not possible, the Panchayat resolved to purchase a ^{separate} plot for this purpose.

2.100 The Panchayat was requested by certain members of the public to hold the weekly market on two days in a week, as it was felt more convenient to make purchases of provisions at smaller intervals of time. The Panchayat forwarded the demand to the Local Board, who conducted an inquiry to ascertain the validity of the demand. The authorities have agreed to the request and have asked the Panchayat to pursue the matter.

2.101 During the year, the Panchayat undertook the construction of ^a building for ^{housing} a public library and ~~to house its own~~ offices. The library building was estimated to cost Rs.900, to be ^{borne} borne out of the Panchayat funds and was nearly completed by the end of the ^{Survey} year. The Panchayat ^{already possesses} had some furniture of its own for the library and intends to subscribe to some periodicals. It also expected some additional donations of periodicals from the public.

2.102 The Panchayat has placed before the authorities a demand for a dispensary. It has offered for this purpose free use of premises in the new library building.

2.103 Under development schemes, the Panchayat has proposed the construction of a pucca road from the village temple to the ferry crossing in the extreme south. This road is to be an extension of the main approach road of the village, at present terminating near the village temple. It is at present more or less a cart track from the temple to the market place. From the market place it narrows down to ^a foot track running through paddy fields upto the river crossing. This track becomes untraversable during the monsoons owing to cultivation and water logging. The scheme, however, was not sanctioned by the authorities during the year.

2.104 The Panchayat had also proposed construction of a pucca bridge near the Vithoba temple in Harba wadi, nearly a mile in the interior of the village as the main cart track. The present bridge is a Kuchcha one of the suspension type and cannot be used by carts, ~~especially in the monsoons~~. It is side tracked by carts, by actually going through the ^{bed of the} streamlet ^{which becomes} dry during the fair weather. The scheme for the proposed bridge has been sanctioned. ^{One} ^{of} Half its expenditure is to be borne by the Panchayat, 50% of which ^{is} was to be in the form of voluntary labour donations by the public.

2.105 According to the opinion of a Panchayat member, the people ^{are} ~~were~~ conscious ^{of} the policies and functions of the Panchayat. The house tax, levied by the Panchayat ^{is} ~~was~~ paid generally. Panchayat decisions ^{are} ~~were~~ discussed and commented

upon by the public. This awareness was attributed to several reasons, the more important of them being the nearness and contact with a highly developed urban centre like Bombay and the consequent consciousness of civil rights, a very high degree of education and literacy and a prolonged leisure of 6-7 months during which no cultivation ^{is} undertaken, and a large number of residents are occupationless.

Cooperative Society :

2.106 The village had a cooperative society, called the Mithbav Group Multi-purpose Cooperative Society Ltd. for a period of about 7 years. It was established in 1945 and became in-operative in 1952-53.

2.107 Prior to the formation of the Society, it was reported that a Public Committee, composed of 5 financiers (4 Marathas and 1 Gabit) and 2 representatives of the people (1 Maratha and 1 Gabit) ran a fair price shop on behalf of the Government. It was reported that these persons ^{later} formed into a Cooperative Society in 1945, principally to start a ration-shop. The initial membership was 27. By the year 1952-53, the membership had risen to 272, when according to reports, the society stopped operating owing to losses incurred by the ration shop and non-repayment of loans advanced by the society to its members.

The society's accounts were not available owing to certain defalcations reported to have taken place.

Education :

2. 108 Educational ^{facilities} families were introduced in the village more than 80 years ago. In 1870, a primary school was opened. A flourishing trade, migration and a comparatively large population were, according to local ^{opinion} reports, the principal reasons for the establishment of the school.

2. 109 40 years ^{later} after, a second primary school was established in village by the residents of a locality called the Phatak wada, for the convenience of the their children. In 1919, the residents of the village started ^a middle school, teaching ^{up to} 4 standards in English. 15 years later, ^{Lower grade} a vernacular middle school was established at Katwan, a ^{ant} distant locality at the north-western extremity of the village.

2. 110 During the 10 years prior to the survey, there have been 3 more additions. A primary school was established by the residents of another locality, called the Shegulwada in 1944. The fishermen's locality of Tambaldeg started a primary school in 1947, which was later converted into a fisheries school and the management taken over by the Fisheries Department of the State. In 1949, the Kshatrakulotpanna Maratha Samaj, a communal organization of the Marathas, functioning at Bombay, established a primary teachers' Training College at Mithbav. By local request it had already taken over the management of the middle school in 1944 and had converted it into a high school by 1947.

2. 111 The recent increase in educational facilities may be attributed to the rapidly increasing migration and subsequent urban contact with Bombay. Large number of persons, employed at Bombay, keep their wives and children at the ancestral house

at Mithbav owing to difficulty of getting accomodation at Bombay. These children alongwith the local children, had also to be educated.

2.112 The early development of educational facilities has brought about a high percentage of literacy in the population of the village. The following tables give the number of literates and educated persons of the adults population, separately for males and females. Those of 13 years of age and more, are considered as adults. *Table 2.25 Total Adult males and females classified Education wise.*

<u>Educational Category</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Upto 1st Std.	3	6
2. Upto 2nd "	35	33
3. Upto 3rd "	90	72
4. Upto 4th "	170	95
5. Upto 7th "	160	62
6. 7th Std. passed	131	36
7. Above 7th Std. or some English Std.	37	9
8. In school at present	237	62
9. Never entered school	349	1581
Non-response cases	12	6
Total	1224	1962

It may be noted that 19.36 of male adults and 3.16% of female adults attend school. These persons are within the age group 13 to 22.

The above table reveals the tendency to leave school after some standards. It is presumably due to an urgency to start earning. This tendency however has shown a decline, greater number of persons being seen as reaching higher standards of education. This is especially so in the case of female adults. This may be seen in the table given below, classified by age-groups

Table 2.26. Age-wise classification of males and females according to educational categories. 66

<u>Male adults</u>						
<u>Educational Category</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>23-32</u>	<u>33-42</u>	<u>43-52</u>	<u>53 & above</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Upto 1st Std.	-	1	-	2	-	3
2. Upto 2nd Std.	1	3	8	3	20	35
3. Upto 3rd Std.	24	15	12	11	28	90
4. Upto 4th Std.	51	38	32	13	36	170
5. Upto 7th Std.	41	35	33	19	32	160
6. 7th Std. passed	59	23	15	8	26	131
7. Above 7th Std.	13	8	9	4	3	37
8. In school	236	1	-	-	-	237
9. Never attended school	53	50	57	65	124	349
Non response						12
Total	478	174	166	125	269	1224

<u>Female Adults</u>						
<u>Educational Category</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>23-32</u>	<u>33-42</u>	<u>43-52</u>	<u>53 & above</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Upto 1st Std.	6	-	-	-	-	6
2. Upto 2nd Std.	19	7	4	3	-	33
3. Upto 3rd Std.	45	20	8	2	1	72
4. Upto 4th Std.	55	21	11	5	3	95
5. Upto 7th Std.	44	12	4	1	1	62
6. 7th Std. passed	30	5	1	-	-	36
7. Above 7th Std.	6	2	1	-	-	9
8. In school	62	-	-	-	-	62
9. Never attended school	234	330	277	319	421	1581
Non response	2	-	2	-	2	6
Total	499	397	308	330	428	1962

2.113 The higher proportion of persons, reaching higher standards in the lower age groups can be easily seen in the above table. The increase in numbers as well as higher grades can be

seen from the table for female adults in which, within the first seven educational categories, the number of person shows a successive increase, viz. 5, 11, 29, 67, 198 from the higher to lower age groups.

2.114 The following table gives the educational standards of those attending school in the case of male and female children.

Table 2.28
Classification of
male and female
children according
to educational
categories.

<u>Educational Standards</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Too young to go to school (below 6 years)	501	451
1st standard	152	146
2nd "	84	59
3rd "	86	58
4th "	73	51
5th "	56	18
6th "	17	9
7th "	4	4
Not attending school	30	134
Non response	16	5
Total	1019	935

It may be seen that less than 3% of the male children do not attend school; 9 of these having left school after a year or two in school, the rest 21 being illiterates. Caste-wise these 21 are composed of 9 Gabits, 4 Marathas, 3 each belonging to Mahars and Bhandaris and 2 Parits.

2.115 The proportion of female children not attending school is 14.3. Of the 134 children in this category 57 attended school for a brief period of one or two years, the remaining 77 never having entered school. The principal reasons for ^{not} sending the female children to school were given as poverty, need of doing household work, absence of any necessity in this regard, and dullness.

2.116 As already mentioned, there are five primary schools in the village. Of these one is a fisheries school and has been separately studied in the section of fishing community and occupation.

2.117 The table below gives information regarding the school

Table 2.29

buildings, land, annual repair charges and teaching staff.

General information of primary schools

<u>Name of the School</u>	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>Land</u>	<u>Annual Repair charges</u>	<u>Teaching Staff</u>	<u>Shortages</u>
				<u>Number of which trained</u>	
1. Full Primary School No.1	3 bldgs. (of which 1 rented)	2 acres	100	10 Male 2 female	12 3 Teachers 3 classrooms
2. Phatakwada Full Primary School	2 bldgs.	0-9 gunthas	50	5 Male	3 1 teacher 1 classroom
3. Shegulwada Full Primary School	1 bldg.	-	30	3 Male 1 Female	3 1 Teacher 1 classroom
4. First Grade School Katwan.	1 Bldg.	0-12 gunthas	20	1 Male 1 female	1 -

Strength

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
281	184
111	76
90	70
54	33

2.118 A notable feature of the village is that all the six school buildings have been built by the villagers, by raising the necessary funds through contributions. Nearly 75% of the funds came from those who were employed at Bombay. The lands belonging to the schools were also donated by the people. Of particular ^{note} is the fact that the lands belonging to schools No.2, 3 and 4 were donated by the people of those particular localities.

- 4 -

A second notable feature in this context is that the annual monsoon repair charges of all the Wadi Schools are borne by the residents of that wadi, though all these schools are under the administration of the District Local Board. The District Local Board sanctions the repair charges, Rs.100 per ^{annum} ~~annum~~, in the case of the School No.1 only.

2.119 This school is a basic training school, with agriculture and spinning as ^{the} basic training courses. The Head Master reported that he has recommended the discontinuation of the spinning course; as it was found to be ~~not~~ ^{like practical} of any use ~~from the~~ ^{practical point of view}, after the education of the student is over. A greater emphasis on basic agricultural training was intended. Students are introduced to cultivation from the first standard. They grow vegetables in small apportioned plots under the guidance and supervision of their teachers. Students of higher classes, from the 5th to the 7th, are taught all agricultural operations. They cultivate by batches in small plots. It was reported that during the previous year they grew a fine paddy crop, amounting to a 40 maunds per-acre yield, nearly double the average yield in the village. The produce is sold by auction and the returns are credited to a savings fund called the Primary Education Fund, from which ^{all} ~~the~~ expenditure incurred on the course is met. This account is operated by the ^{district} School Board.

2.120 The course also includes practical field training. During the Survey year, the students cultivated two plots by the Japanese method of rice cultivation. The seeds and manure were supplied by the owners of the plots.

2.121 The school has a complete set of implements, purchased from the above-mentioned saving account. It has its own compost

pits, the preparation of which also forms a part of the course. It has started Gopuri ^{animals} animals, from which manure (Hira Khat) is prepared. All the manure ^{thus} prepared is used ^{on} at the School farms.

2.122 There was, however, no evidence as to the practical application of this training after the course was over. ~~As is mentioned elsewhere,~~ Almost every ~~xxx~~ student who completes ~~the~~ his primary education, aspires to get a salaried employment either as a teacher or in a textile mill at Bombay.

2.123 The Phatakwada School also reported growing of vegetables in the adjoining plot as an extra-curricular activity. The land was fenced recently by the residents of the locality at a cost of Rs.50, in order to keep away cattle.

2.124 The staff ^{of} in all the ^{above primary} Schools, totals 23, of whom 19 have under-gone the full ^{training} course in primary teaching. It was reported that a shortage of staff was felt of late, due to the increase in the number of students. It was thought that an addition of 5 teachers, 3 in School No.1 and one each in the two other full primary schools, would answer the requirement fully.

Like-wise, a shortage of space was also reported. 5 additional classrooms were needed by the above schools in the same proportion as teachers.

2.125 All the above schools are managed departmentally by the ^{District} School Board. The village Panchayat has a School Committee, which takes keen interest in the activities and development of the Schools. The Headmaster of the School No.1 is invited to attend Panchayat meetings, whenever discussions on matters concerning education are held. During the year, the Panchayat

- 4 -

agreed to bear $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the expenses for constructing a compound wall, when the Headmaster made a request to that effect. The remaining expenses, however, were to be borne by the School Board. The Panchayat sanctions grants for distributing slates and pencils to poor students, to be distributed through the School Committee.

2.125. The high school and the primary teachers training College are managed by the K.M. Samaj.

In 1948, the Samaj, undertook the construction of the school building with the help of funds raised by local Contributions, voluntary donations by community members employed at Bombay and donations from other philanthropists. The Samaj charges an annual rent of Rs.265, borne equally by the high school and the college, which ^{also} holds its classes in the same building. The buildings which cost 30000 rupees, has five class rooms in addition to a staff room, a library room, room for drawing and painting and an office room. The space was reported to be more than adequate for the present number of students.

2.126. The school building stands on a plot of two acres, donated by the villagers. The Samaj has purchased 6 acres of land at the foot of the hills from the Government at Rs.1500/- for purposes of cultivation and plantation. Those students who are not in a position to pay the tuition fees ^{are to be} will be given free instruction in return for labour put in on the plantations of mangoes, coconuts and cashewnuts as also ^{in the cultivation of} rice fields in this plot. The land has been temporarily entrusted to some local families for clearing and making it fit for cultivation. These persons are to cultivate the land for a period of two years as ^a return for

their labour. Actual cultivation by the students may presumably start by 1957-58.

2.127 The Samaj devised this scheme on account of the decreasing number of admissions to the school. This decrease was due to two reasons. The principal reason was the withdrawal^a by the State Government, of the Konkan Maratha full^{free} Studentships, in 1952, as such communal free studentships were considered to be a contradiction to the avowed principle of secularism. Under these ^{Studentships} freeships, nearly 75% of the students of the school used to get free education. ^{the} One freeship were available to all communities except the Brahmins. It was reported that the School could arrange to give free instruction to the remaining 25%. The K.M. free studentships enabled the school to be self supporting. The second reason for the ~~x~~ fall in the number of students was the abolition of English in the first three standards. Whereas admission to the school was sought after the 4th primary standard previously, it is now sought after the 7th Standard.

2.128 The State Government now sanctions freeships to 3% of the students on the condition that the school should give freeships to at least 5% ^{of the students.} The school actually gives free instruction to 12% of the students. The proportion was raised to 12% after the withdrawal of the K.M. freeships. It was reported that the school was not in a position to increase the freeships, as it was already incurring losses to the extent 2 to 3 thousand rupees every year. It was reported, in this context, that no high schools, except those at district places, were in a self-supporting, ^{position.}

2.129 A conference of Secondary Teachers was held at Malvan

during the year, to place before the Government, demands for increasing the free-studentships and the grants-in-aid. The Conference requested the Government to increase free-studentships to the extent of 30% and raise the grants-in-aid to 50% instead of the present 33% of admissible expenditure. It was reported that experience in regard to these grants-in-aid was rather disheartening, as actually 25% of the expenditure was received instead of the 33%, due to cuts being made on reasons such as increase in expenditure on trips, contingencies, furnitures etc. low progress etc.

2.130 The Samaj has nominated a local advisory committee consisting of the Headmaster of the School, the Principal of the Training College, the Headmaster of the Practicing School (School No. 1.) and one senior assistant teacher to keep a watch on the expenditure of the school and generally supervise the conduct of the school. The committee meets every month to discuss matters of immediate interest.

2.131 The school has a library consisting about 4000 books, worth about Rs.3000/-. It was reported that about 80 books are purchased every year. A scheme for starting a free lending library for lending text books to poor students was started in the previous year. A house to house collection of Rs.150 was collected by the staff members of the school and ^{the} college. During the previous year, 10 students were reported to have received the benefit of this scheme. The scheme was continued during the Survey year also.

2.132 The school owns a radio set, operated on dry battery. It was reported that villagers are also invited to listen to rural and educational ^{broadcasts} programmes.

2.133 The staff consists of 10 members, of whom, 5 are graduates, 1 an intermediate in science, 2 matriculates and the remaining two ^{qualified in} ~~have undergone~~ special language and physical training courses, Kavya tirtha and Kandivali short-term course in ^{physical training} respectively. One graduate teacher works on a parttime basis. The drawing teacher is ^{apportioned} ~~appointed~~ between the school and the college. The Principal and an assistant teacher of the training college also take some periods on an honorary basis, in exchange of the services of the Headmaster and a teacher of the school, taking some periods in the college.

Of the 10 staff members, 5 are trained and 3 have undergone specialised courses. Only two are not trained. The Samaj has introduced contributory provident fund scheme and 4 teachers have joined it. The salaries are paid by the Samaj. The staff is considered adequate. In fact it was reported that ~~the~~ more number of students could be accomodated at the present strength of the staff.

2.134 The table below gives the castewise classification of students on the attendance register of the school during the year.

Table 2.30
Caste composition of students.

<u>Caste</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>
Brahmin	22
Vaishya	8
Bhandari	29
Maratha	80
Gabit	14
Mahar	6
	<u>159</u>

10 of the above are females belonging the first four castes.

2.135 All the above students, however, do not belong to Mithbav. Students from nearby villages of Bagmala, Dahibav

and Hindale also attend the high school. The number of such students was reported to be about 30. The exact number, however, has not been ascertained.

2. 136 The receipts and expenditure account^{of the school} for the previous three years, reveals a gradual fall in the receipts from tuition fees and a consequent gradual rise in the indebtedness of the School to the Samaj. On the expenditure side, salaries of the staff and servants, purchases of scientific apparatus and contingencies have increased. This fact signifies that although the school engages additional staff, ^{buys} brings more equipment and generally strives to better the educational facilities, students are not forth-coming in sufficient numbers. The reasons have been already stated. The tuition fees are Rs.4-8-0, 5/-, 5/8/- and Rs.6/- respectively for the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th forms and it was reported that they are considered very high by the villagers.

2. 137 The training college called the Rural Training College was founded by the Samaj in 1949, at Mithbav, as the village, with 4 full-grade primary schools was considered ideally suited for the establishment of such a college. Before 1949, primary teachers had to go to Ratnagiri ^{for} from their training. In this context, a ^{peculiar} teachers feature of Mithbav, is, that, according to reports, there are at present about 200 to 250 primary teachers serving ⁱⁿ the Ratnagiri and other districts who belong to Mithbav proper.

2. 138 Secondly, it is also presumed that the college was started by the Samaj, as a source of revenue to meet the deficits of the school. The fact becomes evident from the practice of

interchanging of staff between the two institutions.

2.139 Admissions to the college are given according to departmental rules. A candidate who has scored 45% of marks at the vernacular final examination and who is physically and mentally fit is eligible for admission. The age should be above 18. The college has two types of students; one, those who are already in service as primary teachers and are deputed for the training course by the department and two, those seeking admission directly. The college prefers the first type of students for two reasons. Firstly, a monthly tuition fee of Rs.5/- per student is paid directly by the School Board to the College. Secondly, these students prove much better than fresh students in the matter of general understanding of instruction, practicals and studentship. The teachers deputed for training either get a stipend of Rs.25/- from the department or a duty pay, approximating their regular pay if they have served for 5 years or more. Out of the 85 students of the college, 76 are such students. The remaining 9 are private students.

2.140 Since these teacher-students come for training from different places, some arrangement regarding their stay at Mithbav becomes indispensable. The college has made arrangement for hostels in a rented building. All the 72 students who applied for hostel accommodation, stay in this building. Of the remaining 13, 11 belong to Mithbav proper.

2.141 During the year, the K.M.Samaj undertook the construction of a hostel building, estimated to cost 45000 rupees. A portion of these building will be used as hostels ^{for} students of the high school also, in case there are requests for accommodation.

72 hostel-students

2.142 59 of these board in the two messes, vegetarian and non-vegetarian, run by the students themselves. A staff member of the college resides in the hostel premises and supervises the activities of the students. The average mess charges vary between Rs.15 to 17 per month, made possible because a total monthly salary payment of Rs.130 to two cooks and one servants, is paid by the college, as the expenditure is admissible to grants-in-aid. The college has also provided vessels for cooking purposes.

2.143 Practical training formed an integral part in the curriculum. The college has no practicing school of its own. The practice classes are held in the full-grade primary school No.1.

2.144 Among the crafts taught in the college, the main are spinning and weaving, the auxiliary being kitchen farming and card-board modelling. The crafts are taught in two craft halls. There are 4 rooms, each being worked by a batch 10 students at a time. There are two craft-teachers, one who has completed the Vardha basic training course in spinning and weaving and the other a 3rd year-trained teacher meant for teaching the auxiliary crafts.

2.145 All college students take part in kitchen farming carried on one acre of land adjoining the college. For this purpose the college instituted a mechanical lift at a cost of Rs.500/- . The lift is driven by man-power.

2.146 The teaching staff consists of 11 members, including two honorary teachers of the high school and its physical training instructor. Of the remaining 8, two are part-time teachers.

All the remaining six are qualified.

2. 147. The college has a library with a separate hall for the same. It was reported that 30% of the students take regular advantage of the library with about 1000 books. The library receives 15 periodicals, majority of these devoted to the subject of teaching. There are only two classes, the 1st year and the 2nd year class, with 39 and 46 students respectively. The attendance is very regular.

2. 148. The college is in a sound financial position. Over the previous three years, the receipts of tuition fees have been showing an increase as also the grants-in-aid. It was reported that the surpluses provided by the college are utilised towards minimising the deficits incurred by the school.

Chapter - III

Housing :Housing

3.1 With the exception of two localities, all houses in Mithbav have ^{small} gardens ^{plots around them} growing coconuts ^{and} mangoes ^{trees}, and other vegetables, ~~around them~~. As mentioned earlier there is no Gavthan with a cluster or row of houses at Mithbav. Residential houses are situated in the middle of a plot generally, and can be approached by a track or foot-path connecting a bigger cart track or the approach road. All such residential plots are enclosed by Kachcha stone walls or by fences. The exceptions are the Jogalwadi and Tambaldeg. In the former locality, there is more clustering of houses, with the result that not all houses have gardens around them. All, however, do have a clean yard in the front. At Tambaldeg, the land is extremely sandy where nothing with the exception of coconut trees, cashew-nut trees or casurinas grows. Though some open space is found around each house, there are no gardens. As the land is suitable for growing coconuts, a certain number of trees are to be found round almost every house.

3.2 About eighty percent of houses have plinths either of ^{blocks} stones, or of red earth. The plinth area varies from 200 to 1000 square feet. The popular custom, however, is to use red earth both for the plinth and walls as it is cheaper than stone. The practice, next in order, is to have a stone plinth with red earth walls. ^{laterite} ~~It was reported that~~ Nearly 10% of the houses ^{at Mithbav} have stone-plinths. Of 965 houses recorded in the village Panchayat register, 49 or 5% of the total are valued at Rs.800 and above and it was reported that all these have stone-plinths and stone-walls.

3.3 A mention may be made here of public buildings.

These are

the chavdi, the 4 temples in the village, and ~~all~~ the seven school buildings, ^{all of which of} are built with stone plinths and stone walls.

3.4 The use of stone ^{however} becomes almost inevitable in the construction of a house. Even where the plinth and walls are built of red-earth, there is a stone framework running round the plinth; the corner pillars as well ^{as} pillars erected in the middle of the 4 main walls for reinforcement purposes, are generally made of stones.

3.5 The design of houses conforms to a usual pattern, with a covered ^{verandah} ~~veranda~~ and two rooms running ^{laterally} lengthwise. The inner most room opening ~~on~~ the rear garden is used as a kitchen. In smaller houses there are only two rooms, one being used for living and sleeping ^{purposes} and the other as kitchen. Smaller rectangular rooms within the house, are rare except in ~~the costlier~~ and better built houses.

3.6 Usually, ~~there is extremely bad~~ ventilation and lighting, ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{poor}, whether the house is small or big. The middle room running lengthwise is generally dark, with a single small window on one of its side walls. The outer room and the ^{verandah} ~~varanda~~ are comparatively better lighted and so is the kitchen.

3.7 Invariably there is no tile or slab flooring. The upper level of the plinth made up of red earth, is rammed and hardened and serves as the flooring. This is ^{regularly} coated with a thin layer of cow dung. The walls are usually plastered with red earth and are seldom painted. All houses ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ Mithbav, therefore, appear red. There are very few houses which are plastered with cement and white-washed.

3.8 Arrangement for taking bath for women, is generally done by a little palmleaves ^{of} enclosure under the nearest coconut tree

in the back yard. In the rainy season this enclosure is thatched with woven palmleaves. Males are accustomed to take their bath in the open, either under a tree or by the side of a well. Built-in bathrooms in the house proper, are an exception.

3.9 Likewise there are neither separate ^{not} or individually owned latrines in the village nor any ~~Bhangis~~ Scavengers in the village. The villagers use the beds of small streamlets running across the village, the open fields after cultivation, the hill slopes, the river banks or the seashore for this purpose.

3.10 A good deal of wood work is used in house-construction. The main part where wood becomes necessary is, apart from window and door frames, the roof. The main types of wood used are the Teak, Sagwan, the Kindal, Chinch, Mango and the Coconut. Coconut planking is more widely ^{preferred to other} used than the remaining types as it can be easily acquired, is cheap and ^{Said} supposed to be more durable. ~~also~~. It was reported that houses where coconut planking is used, have been undamaged and standing for last 50 to 80 years.

3.11 With exception of less than 65 houses of the total 965, all the houses have tiled roofs. There are two type of tiles. The semi-cylindrical country type of tiles are ~~more~~ widely used as they are more readily available for replacement and are comparatively cheaper. It may be noted here that there being coconut trees ~~at~~ around the house, breakage of tiles by falling coconuts and palm leaves is considerable. These country tiles are manufactured at Chinder (9 miles) and are brought to Mithbav ^{by} ~~on~~ carts. There is no Kumbhar (or potter) at Mithbav.

3.12 The second type of tiles is the Mangalore variety. These are generally used in bigger and better houses only. They ~~are~~ ^{can} ~~were reported to be~~ costly and could not be replaced immediately

as they are not readily available. They, however, give a better appearance and do not leak as the country tiles often do.

3.13 The 65 houses referred to earlier are cottages with woven palm^{ves 4w} leaf walls and thatched roofs. These are houses registered in the Gram Panchayat records as evaluated at less than 50 rupees. Most of these belong to the Gabit# families.

3.14 The following table gives ~~the~~ classified details of 51 residential houses, 23 belonging to 18 farmers and 28 belonging to an equal number of fishermen, according to plinth, walls and roofs as also the ranges of their current value. The reported figures of current value are arbitrary. Since the houses varied in size, age and type of construction and as they ^{are} were ancestral constructions about the cost or depreciation of which the respondents did not have a correct estimate, it is not possible to accept the values as correct. They, however, give only general indications as regards the current value.

Table 3.1 *Constructional details of A Sample of houses.*

<u>Type of Houses</u>	<u>Plinth</u>	<u>Walls</u>	<u>Roof</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Range of current value</u>
1	Stone	Stone	Tiles	3	Above 1000
2	Stone	Red Earth	Tiles	17	600 to 1000
3	Earth	Red Earth	Tiles	23	400 to 600
4	No plinth	" "	Tiles	3	100 to 400
5	No plinth	Woven palm-leaves	Woven palm-leaves	5	Below 100

3.15 Cattle sheds at Mithav are generally irregular and temporary structures. ^{Generally} Excepting ~~few~~, there is ^{neither any nor} no plinth and ~~no~~ walls. The cattle sheds are thatched either with dry grass (called Kemble locally) hay or woven palm leaves. It may be

noted here that the farmers and carters ^{at} Mithbav send their cattle for, ~~purposes of~~ grazing to villages 10 to 15 miles ^{to the interior} inland for four months in the year from July to October. During the fair weather months, the general practice is to tie the cattle to trees in ~~the~~ back yards.

3.16 The following table gives details of five cattle sheds, owned by five out of the 18 ^{cultivators} farmers studied.

Table 3.2. ^{Constructural details of cattle sheds}

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Area</u> <u>Sq. feet</u>	<u>Plinth</u>	<u>Walls</u>	<u>Roof</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>value</u>
1	223	nil	Red Earth	Grass	75
2	400*	Red Earth	nil	Palm-leaves	100
3	439	Red Earth	Red Earth	Grass	75
4	108	nil	nil	Hay	50
5	263	Red Earth	Red Earth	Palm-leaves	50

* Estimated

3.17 There is little house-renting in the village. A number of teachers were ^{found} observed to be staying in rented houses which belonged mainly to ~~the~~ Marathas. In many cases these houses ^{are} were partly occupied by a parent family, whose sons have settled in Bombay. Except ^{one or two} some buildings in the market place, constructed mainly for renting ⁱⁿ shops, there was no house built for the purposes of renting for residence. Rents of residential houses in the above cases of teachers range from Rs.5 to 10 ^{p.m.} only. Rents of shops also vary within the above range.

3.18 As regards site-renting, it may be noted here, that ownership of land in Mithbav is much diffused, the official records listing 1340 land-owners. According to the General Family Schedule 18% of the total families did not own any land.

A caste-wise distribution of these is given below :

Table 3.3 Caste-wise Distribution of landless Families

Caste	No. of families	% age to total families in each group
Brahmin	5	16.66
Marathas	49	8.81
Bhandari	30	15.30
Gabit	95	38.00
Sutar	5	41.66
Sonar	4	36.36
Kosti	1	100.00
Parit	2	25.00
Mahar	13	29.66
Chambhar	2	100.00
	<u>206</u>	

It may be seen that a large ^{proportion} number of Gabit families followed by ^{Mahars} ~~Marathas~~, Bhandaris and ^{Marathas do not own any land and} ~~Mahars~~ live in houses built on rented sites. Whereas the houses built by Marathas and Bhandaris ^{and Mahars} on rented land are ~~of~~ generally of a pucca nature, those of Gabits are small temporary structures or cottages with thatched roofs and are found in Tambaldeg. ~~The 65 houses listed by Panchayat in the village records as costing less than~~ ^{Rs.} ~~50 are mainly Gabit cottages.~~

3.19 There is no practice of living on the farm. As mentioned earlier the localities of Mithbav are so distributed as to be in the midst of cultivated ^{fields} land itself. ~~There is no Gavthan in the village,~~ All the plots with houses being recorded as cultivable ^{are} ~~in the village records.~~ area. When the construction of a house is contemplated, the plot of land on which the house is to be built, has to be entered as non-agricultural land in the village records. The assessment is thereupon altered to 10 annas per guntha in place of the former ^{of about} rate of agricultural land assessment ~~at~~ Rs.10/- per acre. It was,

however, reported that the rate of assessment of these plots in which residential construction took place before 1905, was not altered.

3.20 The Maharwada, No.11 in the village map, is situated almost in the extreme south-eastern corner of the village. All the Mahar families are clustered in this locality.

It was estimated that a little more than ⁿ half the number of houses stand on owned, the remaining on leased land. ~~It was also reported that~~ Excepting one or two families, all have pucca houses. One of the reasons advanced for this is that all local masons belong to the Mahar community. The plinth and walls are built of red earth, some of the houses having regular stone plinths. The roofing is mostly of country tiles.

3.21 The locality is encircled on the eastern side by a small streamlet, which is used for purposes of refuge. The houses are well spaced, all having clean yards in front. The locality is strewn with coconut trees, which are looked after by Mahars renting the particular sites.

The locality has independent water supply, the village records, listing 6 pucca and 2 kachcha wells, used for drinking water.

3.22 The following table presents a classification of all the houses ^m at Mithbav according to value. The evaluation was made by a committee of Panchayat members for purposes of taxation. The evaluation has been ^{made} ^{absolutely} ~~on a~~ ~~very~~ arbitrary basis, without going into any details such as cost of construction, age etc. It was ~~even~~ ^{even} reported by a Panchayat member, that in many cases, the evaluation was influenced by the character of personal relations of committee-

members ^{with} and particular house owners. It is, therefore, found that almost all houses have been placed in the lower value groups. It was suggested that doubling the value range will not be far from ^{correct} ~~wrong~~. The table, nevertheless, ~~the~~ helps to have an idea of the ranges of house values. The table was prepared from the evaluation register of the Gram Panchayat. The table also includes ^{value-ranges of} the 51 houses mentioned earlier and treated as roughly representative of the pattern available at Mithbav. The current values of houses in the sample are also arbitrary but were reported by the owners ^{themselves}.

<u>Table 3.4</u>	<u>Range of Value</u>	<u>Total No. of houses</u>	<u>'Sample'</u>
<u>Classification of Houses according to Value</u>	1000 and above	38	17
	800 to 1000	13	-
	600 to 800	20	11
	400 to 600	83	13
	200 to 400	236	5
	Below 200	575	5
	Total	965	51

3.23 The table brings out the arbitrariness between the valuation made by the Panchayat committee and the value reported by owners. It may be said, with a fair degree of correction, that the houses in the lowest two ranges, '200 to 400' and 'Below 200' may be shifted upwards into '600 to 800' and '400 to 600' respectively, as the sample houses also exhibit a similar character. It may thus be more correct to say that nearly 77% of the houses at Mithbav fall in the value range of '100 to 800'. Likewise it may also be said that those valued above 400 (16% of total) in the above list have stone plinths and stone or earth

walls, 77% as having earth plinths and earth walls and remaining about 7% as temporary structures or cottages.

3.24 Table below gives the pattern of ownership according to castes of owners of 100 houses valued at ^{Rs.} 500 and above.

Table 3.5 Pattern of Ownership of Houses valued above Rs. 500

Value	Brahmin	Vaishya	Sonar	Maratha	Bhandari	Gabit	Others	Total
Above 2000	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
2000	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	6
1000	4	3	-	14	5	1	-	27
800	1	1	-	6	2	3	-	13
700	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	4
600	3	-	-	8	4	-	1	16
500	3	2	1	17	5	2	1	31
Total	16	6	2	51	17	6	2	100

Though no comparison between the above ^{and the} castewise distribution ~~with that~~ of the total number of families is possible, it may be seen that of the ^{above} 100 houses ~~valued at~~ ^{Rs.} 500 and above, 16 are owned by Brahmins, with a total of 30 families in the village. The major community of Marathas owns 51, the next in order being the Bhandaris owning 17. It may be ^{else} noted ~~here~~ that the Gabits, ~~ranking third numerically~~ own only 6 houses out of the above 100.

Land ownership and utilisation :

4.1 The central hill range, running east-west in a zig-zag manner through the village divides it into two district parts. The northern part is a plateau about 200 feet above sea level. This area forms nearly two-thirds of the village area and is mainly composed of laterite rocks. It has a thin crust of soil growing grass only. This plateau slopes down to sea level in the north-western end of the village. A locality, called Katwan, is situated at this end and though some cultivation is carried on, the soil is much inferior.

4.2 The southern part is at sea level and is comparatively better suited for cultivation. The soil is light brown in colour and is mainly sandy. It was reported that the soil presently found in this part is the result of more than a century of ploughing and cultivation. Except a small part which gets submerged under sea water from the creek in high tide and the area with residential buildings and surrounding garden plots, all this land is under cultivation, growing a single crop of rice.

4.3 Owing to the scarcity of cultivable land, lack of alternative employment and an intense desire to hold ancestral land, this land has been subjected to extreme sub-division. The table given below gives the size distribution of land owned and land ^{cultivated} owned by families in Mithbav. The table is prepared from the data reported in the General Family Schedule. A majority of the respondents were not able to give the precise area of land owned and land cultivated by ^{them} him. In such cases, the area was estimated by the investigator by means of the amount of ploughing time and seeds sown. ^{Thus} due to reasons of a practical nature, the figures reported by the respondents ^{did do} were not tallied with these ^{the} village records.

Table 4.1 Distribution of owned land and cultivated land according to size-groups

Size of land	Owned Land					Cultivated Land				
	No. of families	% age to total	Total area A G	% age to total	per family (average) Acres	No. of families	% age to total	Total area A G	% age to total	Average per family
Upto 10 Gunthas	303	33.20	51-18	4.38	.17	220	30.10	36-37	6.05	.17
11-20 "	228	24.98	92-22	7.88	.40	181	24.76	71-6	11.66	.39
21-30 "	117	12.82	78-9	6.66	.67	128	17.51	83-6	13.63	.65
31-40 "	62	6.80	56-25	4.82	.91	64	8.75	60-4	9.85	.94
41-60 "	79	8.65	98-14	8.37	1.24	59	8.07	81-3	13.29	1.37
61-80 "	44	4.81	82-23	7.03	1.87	30	4.10	56-20	9.25	1.88
81-100 "	7	.76	15-28	1.34	2.24	8	1.10	17-19	2.86	2.18
2½-5 Acres	47	5.14	169-0	14.40	3.59	33	4.51	122-0	19.99	3.69
6-10 "	17	1.86	129-0	10.98	7.58	6	.82	41-0	6.71	6.83
11-15 "	2	.22	24-0	2.04	12.00	1	.14	11-0	1.80	11.00
Above 15 "	7	.76	377-0	32.10	53.85	1	.14	30-0	4.91	30.00
Total	913	100.00	1174-19	100.00	1.29	731	100.00	610-15	100.00	.83

R.D.

The extent of fragmentation can be seen from the extent of ownership and cultivation of holdings below 1 acre. An average of the first 4 categories in the above table shows that 77.8% of families own 23.74% of land, the average ^{area} acre of ownership being less than 16 gunthas. As regards cultivated holdings, 81.12% of families cultivate 41.19% of total cultivated land with an average of 16 gunthas per family.

4.4 The frequency of table given below also reflects a similar pattern. This table has been prepared from Form 8-A of the village records, which records land ownership of individual khatas or accounts. These individuals are termed as Khatedars, or holders of an account in the village records.

Table 4.2 Frequency Distribution of land ownership according to size.

<u>Size of owned land</u>	<u>No. of Khatedars</u>	<u>Cumulative frequency</u>	<u>% age to total</u>	<u>Cumulative % age</u>
Below 1 Guntha	49	-	3.71	
1-5 Gunthas	220	269	16.67	20.39
5-10 "	174	443	13.19	33.58
10-15 "	97	540	7.35	40.94
15-20 "	74	614	5.61	46.55
20-25 "	67	681	5.07	51.63
25-30 "	47	728	3.56	55.19
30-35 "	48	776	3.63	58.83
35-40 "	33	809	2.50	61.33
1-2 Acres	175	984	13.26	74.60
2-3 "	105	1089	7.96	82.56
3-4 "	64	1153	4.85	87.41
4-5 "	40	1193	3.03	90.44
5-10 "	83	1276	6.29	96.73
10-20 "	33	1309	2.50	99.24
20-30 "	6	1315	.45	99.69
30-40 "	2	1317	.15	99.84
40 and above	2	1319	.15	99.99

It may be seen that 61% of the Khatedars own less than one acre of land. More than half of these fall in the category owning less than 10 Gunthas. A fourth own between 1 to 5 Gunthas while there are 49 Khatedars with an individual holding of less than 1 Guntha.

Of the remaining 39%, owning more than 1 acre, those owning between 1 to 3 acres form a significant portion. The groups in these and subsequent categories are more composite, due to larger group intervals. This grouping is again noticeable in the 5-10 acre group, the number increasing suddenly. Those owning between 3 to 20 acres form more than 17% of which those owning land more than 20 acres do not form even one percent.

4.5 It may, thus, be generally said that a little more than 82% of the Khatedars ⁱⁿ Mithbav own less than 3 acres individually. More than 75% of these owning less than one acre. Of the remaining, almost all, with exception of 10 Khatedars, own between 3 to 20 acres each. The above 10, holding more than 20 acres individually, together own 323 acres 30 gunthas or about 13% of the total cultivable land, 2545 acres 35 gunthas, recorded ^{as such} in the village records.

4.6 A breakdown of the above first 10, brings out the fact, mentioned earlier, that ~~the~~ Brahmins as a class, are the bigger land-owners of the village. Six of the above 10 are Brahmins, holding 55%, 3 are Marathas holding 37% and 1 Khata is state-owned with 7.7% of the total of 323 acres 30 gunthas, owned by the above 10 Khatedars.

4.7 Land in Mithbav can be broadly classified as the Varkas, or totally uncultivable laterite in the northern part and the

Maléshét or the richer rice yielding fields in the southern part. Between these two, there are various grades of land available according to ^{grades of} the soil, conditions, water supply and to a large extent, the location. Per acre prices therefore vary a great deal from the most inferior laterite to the superior rice land.

4.8 Table below gives the yearly sales of Maléshét or cultivable land at Mithbav, the number of transactions, the value paid and the average per acre prices for the 10 years prior to the survey year. It was prepared from the village record of transfers of land. *Table 4.3 Sales Transactions of Land during 1945-54*

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of sales transactions</u>	<u>Area</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Average price per acre</u>
		<u>A</u>	<u>G</u>		
1945	30	5	13.75	9280	1736
1946	21	4	2.75	7813	1915
1947	30	5	30.25	10838	1883
1948	32	8	16.75	12314	1462
1949	21	3	22.75	7931	2222
1950	27	3	11.0	8468	2586
1951	38	7	8.50	18265	2533
1952	34	6	3.25	11227	1842
1953	7	0	24.75	1585	2540
1954	5	1	30.75	2255	1274

The average per acre price ^{17 78.25 } 758.25} ₆₈₀ has been rising during the last 10 years, with the exception of 3 years, 1948, 1952 and 1954. As observed above, there are various grades of land available between the non-cultivable Varkas, type and the richer rice growing variety. During ^{these} the above 10 years the area of inferior land sold amounted to 126 acres and 36.75 Gunthas. The value amounted to Rs.12675 giving an average, per acre price of Rs.100.

It may be seen that the price of Maleshet of an average quality is nearly 20 times that of varkas land.

4.9 A closer scrutiny of the records reveals that the price for good cultivable land is much more than the average of 1951 rupees. In 1954, one ^{Maleshet} Guntha of land was sold for Rs.125, returning a per acre price of Rs.5000.

4.10 It was reported in this context that the developed educational facilities at Mithbav have attracted persons from smaller villages around Mithbav, to migrate to Mithbav ^{the village} permanently. One or two such families were reported to have purchased land for building residential houses. These families were parent families with the earning members employed at Bombay.

4.11 The cultivated fields to the south of the village gradually slope towards the river forming the southern boundary. During heavy rains, a certain amount of erosion occurs due to the force of flowing water. This is so particularly in plots along the river bank. Rice, ~~the principal crop~~ requires standing water at the roots. The land in a rice plot, therefore, has to be flat and level. In places where the ^{of the slope} slope inclination ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{greater,} ~~more,~~ the plots are prepared are above another, in the form of steps. In addition each plot is separated from the adjoining plots by means of small bunds, which serve two purposes, namely holding of 6 to 9 inches of water and forming a demarkation boundary. During heavy rains, water flows above these bunds,. Some bunding of a bigger size is done in ~~the~~ plots adjoining the river in the early months ^{of the monsoon} when the rains are heavy. The purpose of these bunds is to prevent flooding of these plots by the salt water of the river in high tide. These bunds are prepared ^{at} of the

sandy soil of the plots themselves by the cultivators. By the end of the cultivating season, these bunds, used as tracks to cross the rice fields, disappear. By that time the force of the monsoon is spent and the river settles down between its banks.

4.12 Rice is the single major crop grown. The sandy soil, moist climate and heavy rainfall are unsuitable for the cultivation of other cereals like wheat, jowar or bajri. Other crops are inferior type of millets. There are two main garden crops namely coconuts and mangoes.

4.13 The acreages under different crops for the year 1953-54, the year previous to the survey year, are given below. They are extracted from Form 13 of the village records and reflect a reliable pattern of crop practices.

Table 4.4 Crop Acreages for 1953-54
(Summary of Form 13 of village record)

Crop	Irrigated		Non-irrigated		Total		Survey settlement
	A	G	A	G	A	G	
- Rice	6	27	60	15	611	2	902
- Ragi	0	6	46	36	47	2	
Wari	-		4	32	4	32	
Harik	-		1	13	1	13	
- Kulith	-		17	37	17	37	
Udid	-		1	1	1	1	
Plantains	-		0	2	0	2	Bagal 155
- Mangoes	-		5	19	5	19	
Chillis	0	17	-		0	17	141-15
- Coconut	-		185	5	185	5	
Til	-		0	10	0	10	1377
Total	7	10	867	10	874	20	2434

It may be noted from the table that rice is the only cereal crop grown in the village. ~~or~~ Next ⁱⁿ importance are the garden crops of coconuts and mangoes. Both these types are mainly grown in the small gardens surrounding the house. The table also gives ~~the~~ acreages under inferior millets like ragi, wari and harik. All ~~the~~ crops, except mangoes and to a certain extent coconuts, are grown for home consumption.

4.14 The table below gives the percentage classification of the above acreages of 5 main crops to total land under crops. It also gives similar percentages in regard to the cropped area of 18 khatedars, selected for study of farm business.

Table 4.5 Percentage distribution of acreages under main crops

Crops	Total for village	Sample of 18 khatedars
Rice	70	61.8
Ragi	5.4	4.3
Kulith	2	2.9
Coconuts	21.0	} 26.6
Mangoes	0.6	

4.15 Following are the proportions of different cultivated areas to the total land recorded as cultivable.

Table 4.6 Land Utilization according to Village Records.

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Gunthas</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Total cultivable land	2545	35	100
Total cropped area	874	20	34.35
Total area under field crops	683	34	26.85
Total area under garden crops	190	26	7.50

4.16 The total cultivable area of 2545 acres 35 gunthas forms 64.5% of the total area of 3944 acres 14 gunthas under individual ownership, the remaining 35.5% or 1414 acres 13 gunthas being permanent wastes.

5353 -27

Table 3.2

The table, given earlier, giving the size of ownership holding, reflects the ownership of about 22 gunthas as the central ^{ownership} tendency. A break-down of this size according to the above proportions of cultivable area, cropped area, etc., is given below.

Table 4.7 Breakdown of Average Individual Holding (Central Tendency of Ownership) according to utilisation

Individual ownership (Average central tendency)	22 Gunthas ===
Of which cultivable	14 Gunthas
Of which permanent waste	8 Gunthas ===
Area under crops	4.8 Gunthas
Permanent uncultivable	9.2 Gunthas =====
Area under rice	3.3 Gunthas
Area under Garden Crops	1.0 Gunthas
Area under other field crops	0.5 Gunthas =====

The above breakdown illustrates the fact that though the principal occupation available ⁱⁿ at Mithbav is cultivation, the actual area under cultivation is extremely small. The table also brings out the characteristic of the tract, in that of the total land under ownership, the area available for growing the principal cereal crop of rice is only 15%.

4.17 Less than 1% of the cropped area is under irrigation. The sandy nature of the soil coupled with low water levels in the wells during summer render irrigation ineffective and difficult. Those plots that grow rice and chillies during summer require a disproportionately large amount of labour.

Factors such as ~~the~~ scarcity of cultivable land, a high degree of fragmentation and the nearness and direct sea-route to ~~and nearness of~~ Bombay have been instrumental in inducing a large migration in search of employment at Bombay. In its turn this migration and the consequent regular remittances from Bombay have resulted in an apparent neglect of cultivation, as ~~f~~ reflected in the insignificant irrigation and summer cultivation.

4.12 In order to get an insight into the cultivation practices and general conduct of the occupation, a more detailed study, called ^{the} Farm Business Survey, was undertaken during the year of Survey. 25 owner cultivators were selected for this purpose. As mentioned earlier the village records listed 1319 owners. These were arranged holding-wise in a descending order and stratified into 25 groups, the middle from each group being selected for study. Every 53rd owner was selected from the above 1319 Khatedars.

Of these 25, those Khatedars who did not cultivate their land and those who were not residents of the village were dropped after verification. In Mithbav, 7 such Khatedars had to be dropped.

4.19 It was stipulated in addition that along with the above 25 owner-cultivators, all those non-khatedar tenants cultivating plots within related survey members of the above 25, be selected for farm business survey, in order to obtain detailed information of such pure tenant-cultivators' cultivation practices. In Mithbav, with 1319 khatedars, no such cultivator could be obtained within the above 25 khatedars and their related survey numbers.

This is on account of diffused ownership of land as well as land scarcity. ^{As seen earlier} The holdings are of a small size and as such leasing out ^{of} land is not ^{large} common.

The table below gives a castewise classification of the pure (non-khatedar) tenants cultivators in the village as

well as their proportions to total cultivating families.

Table 4.8. Castewise classification of pure Tenant Families.

Caste	No. of families cultivating	No. of pure-tenant families	% age to total	Total land cultivated		% age to total
				A	G	
Maratha	484	16	3.30	390-10	7 - 25	1.95
Bhandari	154	19	12.34	92-38	12 - 27	13.64
Gabit	21	2	9.52	9-3	0 - 12	3.30
Sutar	9	2	22.22	3-20	1 - 20	42-86
Parit	6	1	16.66	5-9	0 - 3	1.43
Māhar	23	2	8.70	8-21	0 - 15	4.39

Of the bigger caste-groups, the proportion of pure tenant-cultivation in Bhandaris appears to be higher than that in the Māhar or Maratha castes. They cultivate a higher proportion of the total land cultivated by the caste as a whole than the Māhar or Maratha castes. The occupation of Gabits is mainly fishing and hence the high proportion for the 2 families and the land cultivated by them.

4.21 Over the total, the ⁴²39 pure tenant families form 5.74% of the total cultivating families (731) and cultivate 3.69% of the total cultivated land, (610 acres and 15 guntas).

4.22 The farm business survey was supplemented by a plot-wise survey, the schedule for which collected inputs of labour and

materials operation wise. The input data ^{were} ~~was~~ later incorporated into the farm business schedule.

4.23 A general operational description of this occupation is given below, the data collected in the above 18 farm business schedule being presented mainly as illustrative material.

4.24 The general family schedule records a total of 633 families or 56% of the total as engaged in this occupation. Of these 360 or 57% reported it as their main occupation, the remaining 273 pursuing it as a subsidiary one. The selected

khatedars form 2.8% of the total cultivating families, ^{and the owned land 1.88%, under field crops 2.19, 2.89%, of garden land 1}

4.25 It has been observed earlier that the proportion ^{2.36% of total cultivated area} of land under crops amounts to 27% of the total cultivable land of the village. In the case of the above 18 khatedars this proportion works out to about 32%. The pattern of land utilisation of the selected cultivators is given below. For facility of comparison and comment, the 18 khatedars are divided into 3 equal groups of six each. For the same reason, the single non-cultivator in Group II has been replaced with the single cultivator in Group III. All the 12 cultivators are thus included in Groups I and II, the remaining being separated as non-cultivators.

clarify criterion of sampling!

Table 4.9. Utilisation of Land owned and Land cultivated by Selected Khatedars.

(in Gunthas)

Groups	Land owned	Area leased in	Area leased out	Total cultivable land	Under rice		Other crops		Garden Crops		Land permanently uncultivable	
					Area	%age	Area	%age	Area	%age	Area	%age
I	1523	79.5	96.75	1505.25	382.25	73.4	64	76.6	102.75	46.7	956.75	88.9
II	315.5	34.75	40.5	309.75	138.75	26.6	19.5	23.4	76.25		75.25	
III	85.25	-	-	85.25	-		-		40.75		44.50	
Total	1923.75	114.25	137.25	1900.75	521.0		83.5		219.75		1076.50	

To get a better idea of the proportion of land under different crops, a separate table cast differently is given below : *Table 4.10. Utilisation of land owned and cultivated by Selected khatedars.* (In ^{hectares} Groups)

Utilisation	Group I		Group II		Group III	
	Area	% age	Area	% age	Area	% age
Rice	382.25	25.4	138.75	44.8	-	-
Other crops	64.00	4.3	19.50	6.2	-	-
Garden crops	102.75	6.8	76.25	24.7	40.75	47.8
Permanently uncultivable	956.75	63.5	75.25	24.3	44.50	52.2
Total	1505.75	100.00	309.75	100.00	85.25	100.00

Garden cropping assumes proportionately greater importance from Group I to Group III. ~~None in Group III cultivates any field crops at all.~~ Garden cropping assumes the form of tending and in very few cases, planting coconut trees.

The table also reveals the practice of leasing of land. The total area leased in by the khatedars in the first two groups amounts to 6.2% of the total land owned by them. The proportion increases from Group I to Group II, being 5.2 and 11.0 respectively. Of the twelve, 5 khatedars reported leasing in land, 3 in Group I and 2 in Group II. Excepting one in Group II all the remaining 4 were mainly owner-cultivators.

4.26 The total area leased out by the 12 khatedars amounts to 7.4% of the total land owned by them. Of the 12, 6 reported leasing out land, 3 from each group. It may be noted in this.

context, that all the six who have leased out land, own more than 1 acre of land. It may be mentioned here that all these leases are ^{of} more than 25 years of duration. They were leased out by the fathers or ancestors of the cultivators.

4.27 The general family schedule reported 633 cultivators, including those who pursued it as a subsidiary occupation. Of these 520 were owner cultivators, the remaining 113 or 17.05% being mainly tenant-cultivators in the sense that more than 50% of the land cultivated by them was leased-in land. The proportionate distribution of these families according to size of owned land is given below :

Table 4.11. Distribution of Tenant-cultivator families according to size

<u>Size</u>	<u>proportion of total Tenant-cultivators</u>
1-10 Gunthas	41.07
10-20 "	28.57
20-30 "	11.60
30-40 "	8.74
40-60 "	6.25
60-80 "	.90
80-100 "	2.69
2½-5 Acres	1.78
	100.00

Leasing in of land is done principally by the families owning between 1 to 20 gunthas. These families comprise nearly 70% of the total tenant-cultivator families.

4.28 All the 5 khatedars who have reported leasing in land are protected tenants, the period of tenancy ranging from 25 to 100 years. In one instance, the tenancy was ^{of} 12 years.

4.29 The terms of tenancy were ~~on a~~ fixed basis, payable in cash or kind. Of the 114.25 Gunthas of leased-in land,

70 Gunthas or 61.27% were under cash rent and 44½ Gunthas or 38.73% under kind rent. The table below gives the per-acre rents and revenues of both the methods. *practices*

*Table 4.12
per acre Rents
and Revenue.*

	<u>Fixed rent in cash</u>			<u>Fixed rent in kind</u>		
	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.
Rent per acre	30	6	10	103	3	1
Land revenue per acre	3	12	0	6	2	6
Rent as multiple of land revenue	8.12			16.86.		

~~It can be seen from the table, that lands of a superior variety are given on fixed rent in kind, the rent fixed at nearly 17 times the land revenue, more than double the cash rent.~~

4.30 The 18 selected Khatedars follow a variety of occupations including agriculture. These are detailed in the following table : *Table 4.13. occupational classification of selected Khatedars*

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>No. of families pursuing as Main</u>	<u>No. of families pursuing as subsidiary</u>
1. Cultivation	8	4
2. Fishing	5	3
3. Carpentry	1	-
4. Agri. Labour	2	3
5. Remittances	2	-

8 families (4 cultivating, 2 Agri. labourers, 2 fishing and 2 receiving remittances) did not report any subsidiary occupation.

It may be seen from the above that of the 18, only 12 are regular cultivators. Occupations next in order are fishing (with 8 families) and labour, (with 5 families).

4.31 That agriculture is in the nature of a subsidiary occupation can be seen from ~~the above table~~ and the ^{number} no. of persons engaged in it, as given below. The table is cast group-wise and shows that ^{only Group I,} ~~the first group~~, with a holding of more than 3 acres individually, is more actively engaged in the occupation.

Table 4.14 Family members of Selected Khatedars classified occupationwise.

Groups	Total No. of persons	Males	Females	Children	Agriculture main		Agriculture subsidiary		Other Occupa- tions main		Other Occupations subsidiary	
					Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
I	35	10	16	9	8	10	-	-	-	-	6	1
II	39	8	14	17	2	3	2	-	4	4	1	-
III	32	7	10	15	1	-	3	3	6	7	-	-
Total	106	25	40	41	11	13	5	3	10	11	11	1

4.32 The principal crop ~~is~~ of rice and is grown during the monsoon season. The proportion of land under rice to ~~total~~^{total} cropped area works to 65.43 for the village and 86.25 for the selected Khatedars.

4.33 The cultivation season commences in June and extends upto October. These two months are mentioned because agricultural activity ^{is} ~~was~~ greatest during these months, in the selected sample. Actually, the season includes the months of May and November also, during which some operations like ploughing and manuring and harvesting respectively ^{are} ~~were~~ recorded in some of the plots under study.

4.34 A detailed analysis of cultivation practices reveals certain indigenous features. Brief descriptions of the principal operations are given below :

Ploughing is the only major operation. It is undertaken in the case of a fourth of the total number of plots, in the months of November and December, soon after the harvesting of the ^{previous} rice crop ^{is over.} These plots, in which ploughing is begun in November, were reported to contain a comparatively thick ~~set of~~ variety of soil and require 5 to 6 ploughings till June. The soil becomes soft and loose due to this continuous ploughing. Ploughing also destroys the weeds that take root after harvesting of rice crop is over. As an additional advantage, it was mentioned that such ploughings helped to get rid of the ~~larger~~ salt content in soil due to the nearness of sea. The constantly upturned soil absorbed dew during the winter months and turned sweeter.

4.35 Table below gives the average size of plots and number of ploughing in Groups I and II in addition to the ploughs and draught cattle owned. *Table No. 4.15 Number and Average size of plots number of ploughs and cattle owned.*

<u>Groups</u>	<u>No. of plots</u>	<u>Average size Gunthas</u>	<u>No. of ploughs</u>	<u>No. of draught cattle</u>	<u>Average ploughings per plot</u>
I	33	12.20	9	11	3.12
II	35	3.96	5	8	2.83
Total	68	7.96	14	19	2.97

4.36 Four Khatedars in Group I reported ploughing 6 times in single plots. Those who ploughed their plots 5 or 6 times possessed ploughs and draught cattle. The average number of ploughings per plot, as can be seen from the table, was more than 3 times in Group I and about 3 in Group II. *Apart from* the reasons given above and the actual size of cultivated land, the number of ploughings appeared to depend on the equipment and cattle holdings of the cultivator.

4.37 Four cultivators in the ~~X~~ Group ^I and 2 ~~in the II group II~~ ⁱⁿ reported ploughing from November onwards. They owned more number of plots than the rest and as such had to begin early in order to complete minimum number of ploughings in each plot. The remaining khatedars did their ploughing in the months of May and June only.

4.38 The ploughs were of a traditional type, made of wood and driven by 2 bullocks. A plough costs about 7 to 10 rupees, the repairs amounting to Rs.2 a year on the average. The plough was the only major implement of ^{cultivators} ~~agriculturists~~ at Mithbav.

4.39 Other equipment-holdings ^{consists} was ~~composed~~ of a few tools, like sickles, pick axes, axes and ~~winnowing~~ baskets. The following table gives the equipment holding of the three groups, together with the no. of ploughs owned. It may be noted that Group I owned 9 ploughs, one of them having no plough at all. In the second group one cultivator owned 3 and two owned one plough each. ^{Table 4.16. Equipment holding of selected}
^{Khatodars}

<u>Groups</u>	<u>No. of Ploughs</u>	<u>Value of equipment</u>	<u>Average</u>
I	9	331-10-0	55-4-0
II	5	160- 0-0	26-11-0
III	-	28- 4-0	4-11-0
<u>Total</u>	14	519-14-0	28-12-0

4.40 ~~The scanty equipment position is reflected in the ownership of draught cattle also.~~ The number of draught cattle owned was 11 and 8 respectively for Groups I and II. The percentages of owned and hired bullock labour, given below, for the two cultivating groups indicate that whereas 13.6% of bullock labour was hired by Group I, the percentage amounted to a little over 30% (30.8) in the case of Group II.

Table 4.17

Bullock Labour (Days)

	<u>Group I</u>		<u>Group II</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Own	327.87	86.4	119.25	69.2
Hired	51.75	13.6	53.00	30.8

4.41 ^{TL} ~~The~~ village aggregates, in this context, ~~also~~ reflect ^a ~~this~~ scantiness of equipment and draught cattle. According to the village records, there were 265 ploughs and 572 heads of

draught cattle (502 bullocks and 70 buffaloes) in the village, reporting a total of 633 cultivating families (360 main and 273 subsidiary). The following table gives the comparative per-acre holdings of ploughs and cattle for the village as well as that of the cultivators from the selected khatedars. The area under field crops has only been considered in this table, as no ploughs or bullock labour is used for growing garden crops.

Table 4.18
per acre holding of
ploughs and draught
cattle.

	<u>Area under field crops</u>		<u>No. of ploughs</u>	<u>No. of draught cattle</u>	<u>Per-acre holding of ploughs</u>	<u>Per-acre holding of draught cattle</u>
	A	G				
For the village	683-34		265	570	$\frac{2.58}{.39}$	$\frac{2.39}{.83}$
Selected Khatedars	15-4½		14	19	$\frac{1.08}{.92}$	$\frac{1.59}{1.26}$

~~In the case of the selected 78 Khatedars, the proportion of owned bullock labour amounts to 81% of the total. The remaining 19% of labour was hired.~~

4.42 In the case of male labour this proportion works out to 31.20% hired as against 68.80% from family members. Male labour was mainly engaged for ploughing, levelling the plot with the help of bullocks after sowing and for threshing. Female labour was ^{usually} ~~used~~ engaged in operations like spreading manure, weeding and harvesting. The following table gives the proportions of family labour and hire labour of both males and females for the two groups as also the average proportion for the total.

Table 4.19. Labour inputs by Family members, hired labour and their proportions.

Groups	Male Labour				Female Labour			
	Family labour		Hired		Family labour		Hired	
	Actual	% age	Actual	% age	Actual	% age	Actual	% age
I	157.98	67.73	75.25	32.27	294.34	74.83	99.00	25.27
II	100.25	70.54	41.87	29.46	55.87	29.98	130.50	70.02
Total	258.23	68.80	117.12	31.20	350.21	60.41	229.50	39.59

It may be seen from the table that the proportion of hired male labour (32.27) is greater in the case of Group I than that (29.46) in the case of Group II. On the total, the proportion of hired male labour amounts to 31.20% as compared to 68.80% of family labour. As mentioned above, male labour is mainly engaged in ploughing.

4.43 This hired labour work is done by other cultivators in the village. No import of agricultural labour was reported. The average size of cultivation holdings being low, and agricultural operations being few in number, ^{those} ~~the number of~~ cultivators, ^{Small pieces of} cultivating land either as the main or subsidiary occupations, undertake labour work. The general family schedule reported the following.

Total engaged in cultivation as main occupation	360
Of which ^{those} the no. engaged in Agri. labour as subsidiary occupation	74 or 20.5%
Total engaged in cultivation as ^{subsidiary} main occupation	273
Of which those engaged in agri. labour as main occupation	30 or 10.99%

4.44 On the total it can be said that 104 families or 16.43% of the cultivating families undertook agricultural labour work

for wages. In a majority of cases the hired ploughman belonged to the category of small cultivators, ploughing with his own pair of bullocks and was paid all the straw fodder of the crop. His own cultivated holding being small, he had enough time to undertake ploughing for wages. The wages for the team, one male and two bullocks, ^{varied} ~~differed~~ from Rs.2-0-0 to Rs.4-0-0 per day. In two instances the ploughman and his bullocks were paid in kind in the form of straw fodder, all the straw fodder produced on the plot being given to him after the threshing of the crop. In both these instances, the rate of payment worked out to a little over a rupee per day.

4.45 The table below gives the proportions of hired male labour engaged in different agricultural operations.

Table 4.20.
Proportional distribution
of hired labour classified
operations.

<u>Operations</u>	<u>% age to total</u>
Ploughing	48.02
Preparatory ^{after} (levelling before & again sowing)	18.31
Manuring	12.50
Threshing	13.19
Watering	9.10

(Note : Only one cultivator reported watering 3 plots of 5,3,7 gunthas with hired labour, because of low rainfall in early July. None else reported so. It may incidentally be mentioned here that this cultivator is a Gabbit caste, who had taken to cultivation only in post-war period).

4.46 Manuring with farm yard manure is done simultaneously with the last ploughing. One of the cultivators in the Ist Group reported carrying and heaping of farm yard manure in January and March. ^A ~~One~~ cultivator from Group II reported carrying of

manure in April. All however reported that the spreading was done in May or June simultaneous with the last ploughing. Spreading farm yard manure required little labour, only 5.9% of the total hired female labour. This was reported by a single cultivator, a Brahmin by caste, who used hired labour for almost all operations.

4.47 The ^{2c} second type of manuring, ~~that is~~ manuring with beach manure is done after the sowing is over. 7 cultivators reported manuring after sowing. In all these cases, beach manure was used. Beach manure required spreading by hand and females did the work. 45% of the hired female labour was engaged in this operation.

4.48 As mentioned above farm-yard-manure and beach manure are the two types of manure used at Mithbav. ~~Livestock holding being comparatively less, the supply of farm-yard manure is small.~~ No sale ^{or} purchase of farm yard manure was reported. It must be mentioned here that a large part of farm yard manure is used as fuel, by preparing dung cakes. In addition, it is used as a frequent coating to the ~~front~~ ^{floor} of residential buildings. Beach manure is available locally from ~~the~~ Rapan ^{fishing} groups operating on the sea-shore. There ^{are} 4 such non-Gabit groups operated by Marathas and Bhandaris for the specific purpose of procuring beach manure, which is prepared by drying smaller variety of fish that come in large shoals.

4.49 The extent of manuring by both types is given in the following table :

Table 4.21 Extent of manuring with farmyard manure and beach manure

<u>Groups</u>	<u>Farm Yard Manure Total Quantity (Baskets)</u>	<u>Per acre input Total area</u>	<u>Per acre input (specific area of input) (Baskets)</u>	<u>Beach Manure (Total Quantity Maunds).</u>	<u>Per acre input (Total area)</u>	<u>Per acre input (Specific area of input) (Maunds)</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
I	530	50 <i>Rs 12 1/2</i>	69	49.50	4 <i>12</i>	17	Rates: Farm Yard Manure 4 Baskets per rupee.
II	81	22.5 <i>Rs 5 1/2</i>	103.7	79.75	13 <i>39</i>	42.7	Beach manure 34 rupees a maund.
Total	611	42 <i>Rs 10 1/2</i>	45	129.25	.6 <i>12</i>	27	

The table reveals the fact that though the per acre ^{input} ~~output~~ of farm yard manure for the total is more than double in the first group, it is actually the other way round, the per acre input for the second group ⁴ ~~is~~ being 103.7 baskets compared to 69 baskets for the first group ^{in specific areas.} The per acre input for the total area shows a reverse trend due to the small production of farm yard manure in the second group.

The input of Beach manure shows a more consistent tendency, the per acre input being more in the second group for the total as well as specific area.

4.50 All farm ^{yard} manure was home produced. No sale or purchase of farm yard manure was reported. Beach manure on the other hand was purchased to the extent of 68% of the total, 47% by Group I and 21% by Group II. The purchases by the second Group were smaller because of home production of beach manure, there being 3 Gabbit families in the group.

4.51 Sowing is done in two ways. They are firstly throwing the seeds by the broadcast method in the plot and secondly by transplanting young crop, grown in a single plot for the specific purpose.

The broadcasting method is comparatively common. In this method, again, there are two types. One is sowing before the first showers, by the third or fourth week of May. This is locally called "Dhulwaf"; and may be translated as "dry sowing". This type of sowing, it was reported, was resorted to, ^{as a matter of expediency by} those who had many plots to cultivate, ~~as a matter of expediency~~. A cultivator having 10 or 15 plots to cultivate, often sows 3 or 4 plots by this method. This leaves him ^{free} to cultivate the remaining plots more carefully. This type of sowing, however, ^{requires} greater amount of weeding, where ~~as~~ ^{done} only one weeding is ^{as a} general practice in other plots; two weedings, one in early in July and the second in late August, are ^{done} undertaken in plots sown by the dry method. In the plots cultivated by the selected khatedars, only three plots, 3.25 gunthas in area, were reported to have been sown in May. These plots were not weeded twice.

The common broadcasting method, is to throw the seeds after the first showers have fallen. All plots sown by the broadcast method were weeded once.

4.52 Under the second method, that is the transplanting method, one small plot is specially prepared by burning dry leaves and thorny bushes in it and later manuring ^{the plot.} it. After the first showers it is sown by the broadcasting method only. Two or three weeks later, the young crop is ~~uprooted and~~ transplanted in other plots, after ploughing and turning the soil into a loam.

4.53 The table gives the proportions of land under the two

methods and the per acre inputs of seed.

Table 4.22. *Proportion of Land under Broad casting and Transplanting methods.*

<u>Groups</u>	<u>% of land under Broad-casting</u>	<u>% of land under Transplan-ting</u>	<u>Per acre input of seed in Broadcas-ting Seers</u>	<u>Per acre input of seed in Transplan-ting Seers</u>
I	54.6	45.4	71.54	112.19
II	46.0	54.0	120.64	112.16
Total	52.2	47.8	83.43	112.18

4.54 Weeding is done by hand, exclusively by female labour. The methods of sowing does not permit the use of bullock hoes. Secondly the crops is always in water. Weeding takes the form of a row of women pulling out the weeds by its roots, the row moving from one end of the plot to the other ~~root~~ ^{and}.

Where sowing is done by the transplanting method, no weeding is separately undertaken, as the weeds are either ^{removed} ~~uprooted~~ and mixed with the loam while ~~it is being prepared~~ or are pulled out while ~~the transplanting is done~~.

4.55 The practice of ^{guarding} ~~watching~~ the crop is ^{absent} ~~absent~~. Only one cultivator from the second group reported watching, presumably because the cultivated lands were far away from his house. A second cultivator reported ^{guarding} ~~watch~~ of one plot out of the 5 plots cultivated by him. The ^{guard} ~~watch~~ was kept for 3 or 4 days only after the transplanting has been done.

4.56 Harvesting of the crop is done mainly in the month of October. Harvesting of some plots was reported in late September

and early November also. Cutting, tying and heaping is done mainly by female labour. It takes a day or two for the ^{harvested} ~~cut-~~ crop to dry, after which it is tied into bundles. The crop is ^{then} ready for threshing. The operation mainly depends on the convenience of the cultivator. The stacks are beaten against a raised wooden ^{bar} ~~pole~~. In some cases it is later trampled on by a row of bullocks for getting all the remaining corn not separated during the beaten process. The corn thus separated is on the threshing floor and carried home.

4.57 Given below are the number of male and female days (hired)

classified according to operations and their %ages to total :

Table 4.23 Allocation of total hired labour ~~occupation~~ operation wise.

	<u>Male days</u>	<u>%ages.</u>	<u>Female days</u>	<u>%ages</u>
Ploughing	52.75	48.02	-	-
Sowing	20.12	18.31	6	2.52
Manuring	12.50	11.38	121	50.96
Weeding	-	-	38	16.00
Harvesting	-	-	63.50	26.73
Watching	10	9.10	-	-
Threshing	14.50	13.19	9	3.79

^a
greater volume of Rice cultivation, it may be seen, engages ^a proportionately more female labour. The number of operations done by them is also more.

4.57 After the threshing is over, cattle are allowed to graze on the plot for ~~at~~ about a month or two. By the month of December, cultivators begin ploughing for the next season and the cycle commences again.

4.58 The business aspect of cultivation is presented in the following pages. The present value of all assets, given in the tables below were reported by the Khatedars and have been retained.

The tables, given below, present the holdings of different type of assets, ^{by the whole group} their proportions to group totals and class totals.

Table 4.24. Distribution of Assets held by selected Khatedars and their Table A proportions.

Groups	Land owned	Buildings		Tools & Imple-ments	Cattle		Finan- cial Assets	Total
		Resi- den- tial	Others		Drau- ght	Others		
	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
I	38609	16400	300	331-10	1235	668	300	49843-10
II	14338	8775	50	160-0	535	731	30	24619- 0
III	1861	4250	-	28- 4	-	384	120	6643- 4
Total	46808	29425	350	519-14	1770	1783	450	81105-14

Percentage proportions to Group total

Table B

I	61.41	32.91	.60	.66	2.48	1.34	.60	100.00
II	58.24	35.65	.20	.65	2.17	2.97	.12	100.00
III	28.02	63.98	-	.42	-	5.78	1.80	100.00

Percentage proportion to class total

Table C

I	65.40	55.74	85.72	63.79	69.77	37.47	66.67	61.45
II	30.63	29.82	14.28	30.78	30.23	41.00	6.66	30.35
III	3.97	14.44	-	5.43	-	21.53	26.67	8.20
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table A gives the actual reported values of all assets.

The value of residential buildings in Group I includes the value of a stone building (Rs.5000) owned by one of the cultivator, Brahmin by caste, and constructed solely for hiring out to shopkeepers. In this sense it is not a residential building. The absence of other buildings (namely cattle sheds) and draught cattle in group III is understandable because none in this group grow any field crops. The total value of implement holdings in Group I is increased to a certain extent in the case of three cultivators, by boxes and bags owned by two and a bullock cart by the third. As regards financial assets it should be noted that of the 300 rupees noted in Group I, assets worth Rs.250/- (shares of cooperative society) are held by a single person, the Brahmin cultivator mentioned above. In Group III similarly, assets (shares of cooperative society) worth Rs.100/- out of Rs.120/- are held by a single ^{family} cultivator, Gabit by caste.

Table B₂ brings out the proportionate importance of different assets in each group. It may be seen that the value of land and buildings account for about 95%, 94% and 92% of the total assets held by the three groups respectively. The remaining is composed mainly of the value of cattle in the first two groups and by (milch) cattle and financial assets in the last group.

Table C, presents the data into class-wise proportions, in order to bring out the proportionate holding, by each group of each type of asset. The percentages in the last column may serve the purpose of a measure for comparison with the percentages for each asset within a single group. In the first group the higher proportion in this regard is apparent in land cattle and financial assets. In the second group the proportion of 30% is

maintained in all assets except in the case of other (milch) cattle and financial assets. The third group, however, shows a marked deviation from the average group proportion of 8.20 in the total. Proportionate holdings of land and tools are much below whereas those of residential buildings, other (milch) cattle and financial assets are much above.

4.59 Two khatedars, one in the ~~first~~ ^I Group and another in the ~~second~~ ^{II} Group reported expenditures, amounting to Rs.40/- (purchase of share of cooperative society) and Rs.56 (premiums on life insurance) respectively by way of addition to assets. No sale or purchase of land or houses was reported. 6 Khatedars, one in ^{the} Ist group, 2 in ^{the} IInd Group and 3 in ^{the} IIIrd Group reported expenditure varying from Rs.10 to Rs.25 on repairs of houses, such as rearranging the tiles and minor repairs against monsoon showers. The total expenditure amounts to Rs.120/- i.e. less than $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total reported value of residential houses.

4.60 The following table gives the purchase and sale and repairs expenditure on account of tools and implements.

Table 4.25 purchase, sale and repairs to implements

Groups	Total value of Imple-ments	Purchases	Sales	% age of purcha-ses to total	Repairs	% to total holding
I	332	24- 8-0	-	7.4	31-0-0	9.3
II	160	17-12-0	2-0-0	11.1	13-0-0	8.1
III	28	6-12-0	-	24.1	0-8-0	1.7
Total	520	49- 0-0	2-0-0	9.4	44-8-0	8.5

As seen earlier, the total value of implements amounts to .42% of the total investment holding. As such no attempt

to estimate depreciation on this asset has been made for charging to farm expenses. The cost of replacement, however, has been taken to farm expenses along with actual repairs expenditure.

4.61 The third important farm asset, namely livestock, has not undergone any significant change during the year. Only one cultivator in the first group reported the purchase of a she-buffalo for Rs.80, increasing the total value of Rs.1778 of ^{drought} draft cattle by less than $\frac{1}{2}\%$. Two births, a she-buffalo calf and a female calf in Group I and II were reported during the year. The total value of bullocks to total investment amounted to 2%. No attempt to estimate depreciation on livestock, has, therefore, been made.

4.62 During the year only one Khatedar in the third Group reported raising of a loan of Rs.200/- for consumption. The farm business data reveals that out of the 9 loans existing at the beginning of year, only one ~~of which~~ was taken out for purposes of cultivation, all the rest being for purposes of either direct consumption, marriages, major house repairs or illness.

4.63 The absence of loans is presumably due to the cash nature of other receipts of the families, namely sale of garden produce, labour earnings, remittances and earnings from fishing. Excepting one loan raised by the Brahmin cultivator in the first Group, ^I all the remaining 8 loans were ^{reported to be} interest free and were raised from either relatives or acquaintances in the village. The Brahmin cultivator reported raising of a loan of Rs.2000/- from the Urban Coop. Bank at Devgad, the Taluka place, at 7 $\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest, by mortgaging a part of his lands and ^{his} a residential building. The loan was raised in order to meet business

obligations. He reported repayment of 1/3rd of the loan and interest dues.

4.64 The loan position of the three groups is given below.

No repayments were reported during the year.

Table 4.26 *Debt position of Selected Khatedars*

<u>Groups</u>	<u>No. of loans</u>	<u>Amount of Loans</u>
I	2	1825
II	3	1700
III	4	850

4.65 The detailed farm expense and farm income tables of the 12 cultivating khatedars are ~~given below~~ ^{attached}. The Tables broadly reveal the expenditure on different items of farm business as well as receipts from different sources. The general nature of the occupation, its profitability as well as its share in the total family incomes are also brought out at the end.

4.66 Certain expenditure items require explanations. The item 'Fodder and Concentrates' includes fodder fed to all heads of livestock owned by the 12 cultivators. While calculating net farm expenses, only that part of the total fodder fed to draught animals need be taken. It was however not possible to separate these two. Likewise, on the receipt side all receipts from livestock are ~~taken~~ ^{included}, as the same difficulty, that of separating the receipts from draught animals, was experienced. The proportion of expenses on fodder to total expenditure as well as livestock receipts to total farm receipts therefore appears at a high figure.

4.67 The table below gives the proportion of total fodder, purchased and farm grown. For facility of comparison a second grouping, that of those pursuing cultivation as the main family

occupation and those doing it as a subsidiary occupation, is also attempted. As expected, the result shows that nearly three fourths of the fodder requirements have to be purchased by those doing cultivation as a subsidiary occupation. The general proportion shows that nearly two thirds of the total fodder has to be purchased for cash. None of the khatedars reported sale of fodder. *Table 4.27. Proportion of expenses incurred on fodder*

Group	No. of Farms	Fodder	Fodder	
		purchased <i>₹/ales</i>	Farm-grown <i>₹/ales</i>	
I	6	32.55	19.79	
II	6	32.93	14.73	
Main	8	<u>65.48</u> 34.75	<u>34.52</u> 23.00	100.00
Subsidiary	4	30.74	11.51	
Total		<u>65.48</u>	<u>34.52</u>	100.00

4.68 Payment to labour is largely done in cash. Of the 12 farmers 5 reported payment in kind totalling Rs.53-4-0. Between the two groups, carrying on cultivation as main and subsidiary occupation, this difference between cash and kind paying is markedly great as can be seen from the table below.

Table 4.28 Percentage Labour payments

	Cash	Kind		
		Stalks	Straw	
Main	44.65	5.44	7.39	
Subsidiary	41.05	-	1.48	
Total	<u>85.69</u>	<u>5.44</u>	<u>8.87</u>	100.00

It may be noted here that kind payment largely constituted straw or the fodder of the rice crop grown in the farm. Payment in the form of stalk was also reported to a certain extent.

4.69 Baluta payments were reported by 5, all falling in the 'main' group. Baluta payments on the total amounted to .58% of the total expenses.

4.70 Excepting in one case, there has been no sale of farm produce. It was generally reported that no sale was possible, as the family farm produced about 1/3rd of the requirements of rice of the family itself. The comparatively small proportion of kind payments also establish this opinion.

4.71 The table, given below, gives the proportionate distribution of total farm expenditure on different items, grouped according to the main or subsidiary character of the occupation. For facility of comparison the proportionate

distribution of farm receipts is also given.

Table 4.29. Proportionate Distribution of Farm Receipts and Expenses itemwise.

<u>Expenditure</u> <u>Heads</u>	<u>Group</u> <u>'Main'</u> Rs.	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Group</u> <u>subsidiary</u> Rs.	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Total</u> Rs.	<u>Pages</u>
1. Land Revenue	82-11-2	3.61	24-11-6	2.14	107-6-8	3.12 3
2. Rent	182-12-0	8.00	9- 0-0	.78	191-12-0	5.57 4
3. Fodder and concentrates	1017- 8-0	44.49	756- 0-0	65.58	1773- 8-0	51.56 52
4. Seeds	272- 8-0	11.91	56- 8-0	4.90	329- 0-0	9.56 10
5. Manure	391-12-0	17.13	134- 8-0	11.67	526- 4-0	15.30 15
6. Paid labour	214- 0-0	9.36	158- 6-0	13.74	372- 6-0	10.83 11
7. Baluta	19-14-0	.87	-	-	19-14-0	.58
8. Misc. (overheads)	106- 0-0	4.63	13-12-0	1.19	119-12-0	3.48 4
Total	2287- 1-2	100.00	1152-13-6	100.00	3439-14-8	100.00

Receipt Heads

1. Sales	105- 0-0	3.21	-	-	105- 0-0	2.54 3
2. Payments in kind	67-10-0	2.06	5- 8-0	.64	73- 2-0	1.78 2
3. Retained at home	1728- 7-0	52.80	526- 2-0	61.06	2254- 9-0	54.52 54
4. Livestock receipts	836- 7-0	27.38	149- 1-0	17.30	1045- 8-0	25.28 25
5. Rent	171-12-0	5.25	21- 5-0	2.47	193- 1-0	4.66 5
6. Garden Produce	304- 8-0	9.30	159-10-0	18.53	464- 2-0	11.22 11
Total	3273-12-0	100.00	861-10-0	100.00	4135- 6-0	100.00

The table reveals certain peculiarities of farm business at Mithbav. More than half ^{of} the expenses ^{of} have ^{been} incurred on fodder and livestock on the total, the receipts from livestock being a quarter of the total receipts. Proportion of expenses on livestock for the subsidiary group is much higher (65.58) than that for the 'Main' Group (44.49). Similarly the proportion of expenses on labour is higher (13.74) for the 'subsidiary' group than that for the 'main' group (9.36).

On the receipt side it may ^{be} seen that proportion of farm produce, retained home, is greater for the subsidiary group, ^{as} even though sales and payments in kind are virtually nil. It may also be noted that the receipts from garden, though nearly half in actual value, ^{are} is proportionately double for this group than that for the 'Main' group.

4.72 The following table gives the actual figures of farm expenditure, farm receipts, profit and loss from all the four groups. The second table gives the per-acre figures.

Table 4.30 Total Farm Expenditure and Receipts.

Groups	Farm Receipts	Farm Expenditure	Surplus(+) or Deficit(-)
I	2676-15-0	1944-12-2	+ 732- 2-10
II	1458- 7-0	1495- 2-6	- 36-11-6
Total	4135- 6-0	3439-14-8	+ 695- 7-4
Main	3273-12-0	2287- 1-2	+ 986-10-10
Subsidiary	861-10-0	1152-13-6	- 291- 3-6

Table 4.31 per Acre Expenditure

Groups	Cropped Area (Including area under garden)		Per-acre Receipts Rs	Per-acre Expenses Rs	Per-acre Profit (+) or loss (-)
	A	G			
I	12	4	221-4	160-11	+ 60- 9
II	5	15	271-5	278- 3	- 6-14
Total	17	19	236-10	196-13	+ 39-13
'Main'	14	13.50	228-5	159- 8	+ 68-13
'Subsidiary'	3	5.50	274-6	367-2	- 92-12

The above figures of average profits and losses, as well as per acre profits and losses denote the general nature of farm business at Mithbav. It may be remembered here that the total farm expenditure figures do not include charges for family labour, depreciation on livestock and implements and nominal investment interest charges on hand. Even so, the per-acre returns from agriculture are small.

4.73 The above per-acre returns show the subsistence-nature of farm economy at Mithbav. They confirm the opinions generally expressed by cultivators of the village, that cultivation is an unprofitable business undertaken only because alternate occupations are few; that there are less than 20 cultivators in the village who produce rice enough for the family for the whole year; and that on the average the production of rice barely supplies about one-third of the annual requirements.

4.74 Table below gives the actual incomes of the Khatedars from agriculture as well as other sources. These sources are chiefly employment at Bombay, fishing, agricultural labour and other local occupations like carting, carpentry and masonry.

~~The table, next giving % ages of these to total income, brings out the relative importance of agriculture in an average family~~

Table 4.32. Total incomes of Selected Khatedar families, their sources and percentage distribution.

<u>Groups</u>	<u>Income from cultivation</u>	<u>Income from Labour</u>	<u>Income from Fishing</u>	<u>Remittances received</u>	<u>Income from other sources</u>	<u>Total income</u>
I	+ 732	392	150	600	418	2292
II	- 37	5	1080	1500	410	2958
Total	+ 695	397	1230	2100	828	5250
'Main'	+986	392	200	600	418	2596
Subsidiary	- 291	5	1030	1500	410	2654

Percentage distribution

I	31.94	17.10	6.54	26.18	18.24	100.00
II	- 1.25	.17	36.51	50.71	13.86	100.00
Total	13.24	7.56	23.43	40.00	15.77	100.00
'Main'	37.99	15.10	7.70	23.11	16.10	100.00
Subsidiary	- 10.96	.13	33.81	56.52	15.45	100.00

Income from labour constitute that from agricultural labour. It is significant that group I as well as group 'Main' reported income from labour. The principal reason is that there are two Gabit and 1 Bhandari family engaged in fishing in the second group. It may also be said that agricultural labour can be done only by those who ^{belong to cultivating communities.} are ~~primarily cultivators~~. Nevertheless the fact that the 1st group, all cultivating as the main occupation of the family, ^{also} works as casual agricultural labour, is very significant and denotes the inadequacy of the family occupation in supplying full gainful employment.

Income from fishing is much greater in the second Group, and particularly so in the Group 'Subsidiary'. This is so because of the two Gabit families in that group. In the Group III, income from fishing constitutes 30.0% of the total family income.

Three in Group I and 2 in Group II reported ^{receipt of} remittances. It may be seen that the proportion of remittances to total family incomes even in Group I is 26% and is highest in the class. The proportion of remittances in the third group is 35% of the total.

The last item of other income constitutes income from house rent, carting occupation, carpentry and masonry. The first two families lie in Group I and the 'Main' group, the third i.e. carpentry in Group II ^{and} 'subsidiary', group and the last in the IIIrd group.

4.75 The average income distribution of all the 18 Khatedars is given below according to the importance of the sources of income. The position of income from agriculture does not need any additional comment.

Table 4.33 Proportion of incomes from different sources 127

<u>Sources of Income</u>	<u>Proportion to total</u> (12 ^{cultivating} Khatedars)	<u>Proportion to total</u> (18 Khatedars)
1. Remittances	40.00	39.80
2. Fishing	23.43	26.01
3. Other (local) Occupations	15.77	17.81
4. Agriculture	13.24	9.83
5. Labour	7.56	6.50

4.76 Livestock economy : As seen in the foregoing pages, agriculture at Mithbav is an unprofitable occupation. This and the scanty production of farm-grown fodder, have resulted in high fodder costs, amounting to 50% of the total farm expenses. The supply of farm grown fodder amounts to about 10% of the total fodder requirements. Cattle not yielding either labour or milk are therefore not maintained.

4.77 Brief description of fodder economy of the 18 Khatedars is given below.

The table below gives the village aggregates of different types as well as the per acre holding of working cattle. For the sake of comparison similar figures for the 18 selected khatedars is also given.

Table 4.34. Total and per acre cattle of the village.

	Cultiva- ted (cropped) Area	No. of Bullocks (inclu- ding stud)	No. of he- buffaloes including stud	No. of cows	No. of She Buffa- loes	Young cattle	Per a acre farm cattle
Village	683.85	609	82	277	191	348	1.0104
Selected Khatedars	15.11	17	4	15	4	13	1.3898

4.78 The 17 working cattle-heads yielded total agricultural labour of 447.12 bullock days or 21.29 bullock days per head during the season. The ~~extreme~~ under-employment of farm cattle is evident from the above. It may be pointed out that one pair of bullocks, owned by a cultivator in the first group, yielded additional labour of a non-agricultural type. This cultivator owns a bullock cart and employs the same pair of bullocks for carting also. He reported an income of Rs.150/- from carting. The proportionate yield of bullock labour in that occupation, however, could not be computed.

4.79 The following table gives the expenditure on fodder incurred by the owners. The figures are grouped in three groups as earlier : *Table 4.35. Total Fodder Fed and purchased.*

Group	Big cattle	Young cattle	Total fodder fed				Total fodder purchased				Grazing charges
			Oil cake	Straw	Hay	Total	Oil cake	Straw	Hay	Total	
I	19	6	359	162	367	888	354	55	160	569	35
II	18	4	172	152	347	671	150	52	385	587	179
III	3	3	22	30	92	144	22	40	60	122	-
Total	40	13	553	344	806	1703	526	147	605	1278	214

Almost all the requirements of oil cake had to be purchased. 42.7% of straw also had to be purchased for cash, the remaining 57.3 coming from the farm. 75% of hay fed to the animals also was purchased, the rest 25% being brought by the females ^{of the selected households} from the nearby hills. Over the average, it is found that 75% of the total fodder requirements have to be purchased.

The scarcity of local fodder has resulted in

4.80 ~~Consequently~~, all cattle ^{being} is sent to interior villages for purposes of grazing soon after the monsoons, and when agricultural operations requiring bullock-labour are over. The grazing charges are fixed per head of a cattle for the duration of 4 months till November when the cattle is brought home. The usual charges are Rs.20/- per head of cattle. On the average the grazing charges amount to 11% of the total feeding expenses.

4.81 Of the milch cattle, 3 out of 15 cows and 1 out of 3 she-buffaloes yielded milk during the year. All the three cows belonged to khatedars in Group II and the she-buffalo to one in Group I. Cow milk was partly sold in one case, whereas half the production of buffalo milk in addition to 2/3rds of production of ghee was sold locally. The figures are given below

Table 4.36. production and Sale of milk and Milk products.

	<u>Milk sold</u>	<u>Milk utilised</u> <u>at home</u>	<u>Total</u>
She-buffalo (one)	157-8-0	157-8-0	315-0-0
" Ghee	36-0-0	15-0-0	51-0-0
Cows (3)	60-0-0	114-8-0	174-8-0
<u>Total</u>	<u>253-8-0</u>	<u>287-0-0</u>	<u>540-8-0</u>

4.82 10 out of the 18 khatedars reported keeping of hens.

One sale of 4 fowls was reported. Sale of eggs was reported

by 5 out of 10 khatedars. The group wise production and sale

of eggs is given below : *Table 4.37 production and Sale of Eggs*

	<u>Eggs sold</u>	<u>Eggs consumed</u> <u>at home</u>	<u>Total</u>
Group I	6-14-0	19- 2-0	26-0-0
Group II	3- 2-0	11- 6-0	14-8-0
Group III	3- 2-0	1- 6-0	4-8-0
<u>Total</u>	<u>13- 2-0</u>	<u>31-14-0</u>	<u>45-0-0</u>

It may be noted that the proportion of eggs sold increases in the IIIrd Group especially.

4.83 On the average it is found that 45% of the total livestock was sold, the rest consumed at home. The respective proportions for dairy produce and eggs amount to 47% and 29% respectively.

4.84 As regards fowl, it was reported that, there were many losses due to chicken being lifted away by birds. The following table gives an idea of the production, consumption and loss of chicken. *Table 4.38 production, consumption and loss of young fowl*

<u>Total at the beginning of the year</u>	<u>Born during the year</u>	<u>Eaten by birds</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Consumed at home</u>	<u>Total at the end of the year</u>
42	126	41	4	32	91

It is found that consumption of chicken at home is greater in Groups I and II than that in Group III. The hens do not cost anything by way of feeding and grow by themselves. No particular attempts at better breeding was reported.

4.85 Finally, the total receipts and expenditure account is presented in the following table in order to give the general idea about Livestock economy at Mithbav.

Table 4.39 Receipts And Expenditure on Livestock Account

<u>Receipts sources</u>	<u>Rs.-As.-Ps.</u>	<u>Expenditure heads</u>	<u>Rs.-As.-Ps.</u>
1. Bullock labour*	335- 5 -3	Fodder & Feed	1702- 8- 0
2. Farm Yard Manure	284- 8 -0	Grazing charges	214- 0- 0
3. Dung cakes for fuel	154- 8 -0	Ropes	16- 8- 0
4. Milk & milk products	540- 8 -0		
5. Eggs	45- 0 -0		
6. Fowl+	63- 0 -0		
Total	1422-13 -3	Total	1933- 0- 0

* The hire-charges for 1 person, 1 plough and 2 bullocks during harvest were Rs.3/- and for 1 person alone were Rs.1/8/-. As such bullock labour has been valued at Rs.-/12/- per day. The valuation however is not accurate.

+ Young fowl has been valued at As.8/- per head.

Chapter - VCarpentry :

The village had one Carpenter family with Vatan lands about 150 years ago. Most of the Vatan land was mortgaged and sold by the Carpenter. The remaining lands are now distributed into 4 descendent families. About 50 to 60 years ago, some Sutar families migrated and settled in Mithbav from Jamsanda near Devgad. Some of these were relatives of the traditional Sutar family and inherited the Baluta rights. About 25 years back, 4 families from Asrandi, 40 miles away from Mithbav, came in search of work and settled in the village. During the Survey year, there were 12 Sutar families, all doing Baluta work, as part of the occupation. Of these 8 claimed hereditary Baluta rights, the remaining 4 getting baluta work only by the consent of the former families. As noted earlier, the system is fast falling into disuse. It was reported that less than 30% of the cultivating families adhered to this custom.

The occupation was hereditary one in the case of all the 12 families. 9 families reported a little cultivation as a subsidiary occupation. 2 did not have any subsidiary occupation, the women-folk reporting seasonal agricultural labour work. The women-folk of 7 including the above two reported doing agricultural work during the season; of 3 reported household work and those of the remaining 2, absence of employment, though they were prepared to work.

The demand for carpenter's service is limited. Apart from repairs and reconditioning agricultural implements, the principal demand is in the form of wage labour at the rate

of Rs.2-8-0 to 3 per day. ~~Carpenters' services are hired in the construction and repairs of fishing boats by the Gabit community.~~ Educational institutions numbering 7 in all, also require their services for repairs and preparation of ^{School} furniture. A part of the demand constitutes the repairs and preparation of wooden wheels for lifting water, fitted to nearly 50% of the wells. There is a small demand, estimated to be less than 5% of the total, for preparation of pieces of ^{household} furniture.

5.6 A major portion of their services, is in demand in ^{house-} the building activity, in the preparation of all wood^{work} requirements namely windows and doors, the ceiling and the roof of the house. The principal reason, it was reported, for adhering to the baluta system was that by a traditional custom, the attached Sutar had a prior claim to the contract of supplying the wood work for a house contemplated by an attached cultivator family. It was reported that between 1950 to 1955 the Sutar of Mithbav supplied the woodwork to 10 houses at Mithbav, under the above privilege.

5.7 The local carpenters, however, do not get the contracts for all the houses built in the village. The services of carpenters from places like Devrukh (40 miles) Jamsande (15 miles) Salas (20 miles) and Kamta (7 miles) are imported into Mithbav by persons intending to undertake house construction. Likewise the local Sutar accept contract for supplying woodwork to houses built in villages round about Mithbav. In 1953-54, the year previous to the Survey year, one carpenter got a contract at Shirgaon, 15 miles away. He worked continuously

for three months in that village along with his son and in addition had to hire a labourer for 15 days. The Carpenter prepared the woodwork, looked to the proper alignment of the foundation and fitted the roof. He received Rs.450/- for the entire work.

5.8 Whenever called for work, the carpenter goes with his own set of tools and implements. They^{se} are chisels, planing block, home-made wooden drill, saws, hammers, vices, wooden foot-rule, iron-right angle etc. The tools are mainly hereditary and are replaced or reconditioned as and when required. According to local estimates, the present value of implements owned by a sutar family averaged between Rs.60 to Rs.80. Annual repairs amount to Rs.20 to Rs.25 per family on an average, most of the repairs being done by the carpenters themselves.

5.9 The table below gives the proportion of incomes earned by the carpenters in the hereditary occupation and from other sources.

Table 5.2. Distribution of Rs. Total Family incomes according to sources.

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>%age of total</u>
Total family income	Rs.6900	100.00
Income from Carpentry	Rs.5950	86.25
Income from Cultivation including wage earnings	Rs. 650	9.41
Remittances from Bombay	Rs. 300	4.34

Compared to the average ^{village} income of Rs.404 per family returned by the General Family Schedule, the Sutar as a class appear to be better off with an average income of Rs.575 per family.

Blacksmithy :

5.10 Mithbav has no resident blacksmith. The one operating in the village belongs to village Kinjarde, about 10 miles away. He works for 5 months in his native village and for 7 months at Mithbav, during the fair season. He has hereditary land in his village which is cultivated by his son, jointly with four brothers.

5.11 Agriculture at Mithbav, as noted earlier is ^{in effect} a part-time occupation of the people. Due to fragmentation of land the average ownership holding is small. Per family holding of agricultural implements also is therefore small. The annual demand for production and repair of these implements, it was reported, was not enough to provide full time work for even one ~~to~~ blacksmith.

5.12 The blacksmithy services, however, are also demanded by Gabit families engaged in fishing for preparation and sharpening of knives; by carters for fitting the cart wheels with rims; by Mhars for repairing instruments required in building construction and for small repairs and reliving work by goldsmiths and carpenters. A part of the demand was, however, reported to be diverted in the form of import of ready made instruments like sickles and knives from Fonda, sale of readymade plough shares by itinerant blacksmiths visiting the village and two or three carpenters with furnaces doing a little repair work.

5.13 The earnings of the blacksmith ^{were} ~~was~~ reported to be about 350 rupees at Mithbav, ^{per season.} During the season of 7 months that he works in the village, he gets full day's work for

about 25 to 30 days. For the remaining, he works intermittently according to demand. On a full day's work, he earns Rs.2-8-0 to 3-0-0. He reported pressure of work during May and November, when repair work of ploughs and sickles is brought to him. His son works with him and according to his report, the total work he gets gives him employment for about 40% of the total number of days, during his stay in Mithbav.

5.14 He works strictly for cash only and does not accept the customary kind payment. He is not a traditional village blacksmith in the sense that he does not hold vatan land.

5.15 His implements, purchased 10 years back, are valued at Rs.55/- the repairs and renewal charges amounting to Rs.20/- annually. Current expenses of occupation, mainly for charcoal amount to Rs.50/- *for the season.*

Goldsmithy :

Of the 11 Sonar or Goldsmith families at Mithbav, *only* 5 reported goldsmithy as their occupation. 4 families had females as heads of the family, 3 receiving remittances from Bombay and one subsisting on occupations like agricultural labour, cultivation and medical practice. Of the remaining two families, one was a pensioner and the other, an agricultural labourer, as he was blind.

5.18 Of the five working goldsmiths, 4 reported goldsmithy as the main occupation, and one as the subsidiary occupation. Among the four, two had shops in the market place and two worked at home. The person reporting goldsmithy as his subsidiary occupation, was serving on a salaried post. He took to goldsmithy owing to the termination of job. Except one, all the 4

working goldsmiths own land and cultivate it themselves during the monsoon season when business is very low.

5.19 The craft of making gold and silver ornaments requires expert handling of the precious metals. It is, therefore, an exclusively hereditary occupation. The craft is acquired by stages during childhood. One of the two shop-owning goldsmiths reported apprenticeship at his relatives' shop at Bombay for 5 years. All ~~Mithav~~ goldsmith families ^{of the village} in the profession and out of the profession, reported goldsmithy as the main occupation of their fathers and grandfathers.

5.20 Preparation of ornaments is undertaken only on order except some minor ^{types of} ornaments like rings and nose-studs which are of a standard type. The skill is limited to a few types of ornaments, ^{namely} two or three types of necklaces, bangles and rings that are usually demanded. One of the two goldsmiths having shops, reported that demand for gold and gold ornaments is very limited at Mithav owing to the general poverty of the people, ~~and purchases at Bombay.~~ Orders for silver ornaments, demanded mainly by Bhandaris and Gabits, are supplied by importing the ornaments from Kolhapur where there are expert craftsmen specialised in silver work. Rates for preparing gold ornaments are fixed according to type of ornament, the charge for necklaces being the highest as it requires more labour and time.

5.21 The instruments of the profession are hereditarily owned. Some of them, such as fire tongs, furnace etc. are prepared by the goldsmith himself. Smaller weights and measures are improvised. Hammers and anvils are relined with steel, once in two or three years. This is done by the village

blacksmith. The repair charges amount to about Rs.10, per annum on an average. The present value of instruments was estimated at Rs.40 to 50 for every working goldsmith.

5.22 Of the five, two had shops in the market place and three worked in the residential houses. All the three reported much less custom than the shop-owning goldsmiths. Whereas the latter reported an income of Rs.1500 each per annum, those reported by the three goldsmiths ranged from Rs.100 to 250. They reported that they could get custom only from persons known to them. Their skill, capital and trading ability was limited.

5.23 One of the two shop-owning goldsmiths had an assistant, who was paid Rs.40 per month. The assistant was more of an apprentice learning the craft, though he also worked in the capacity of a servant-cum-assistant. The other goldsmith worked by himself.

5.24 The annual expenses of both the goldsmiths amount to about Rs.100 on an average, Rs.50 by way of rent and monsoon repairs, Rs.20 for coal for the furnace, Rs.20 for acids and other materials of business, Rs.2 for getting the weighing machine corrected and ^{other} sundry expenses.

5.25 The fixtures in the shops were valued at Rs.50 to 70 rupees. The furniture was old and hereditary, small pieces being purchased from local carpenters occasionally according to need.

5.26 The annual turnover of the two ranged between Rs.8000 to 10000. Both reported an income of Rs.1500, net of all expenses. It is mainly earned in the preparation of gold

ornaments. About 10% of the income came from the sale of readymade silver ornaments from Kolhāpur.

5.27 One of the two goldsmiths also reported some business in buying and selling gold and silver. The precious metals are brought from Malvan by the goldsmiths. Both reported absence of pawning of ornaments by the people.

5.28 Income from the occupation on the average amounted to 62% of the reported total family income, the remaining 38% being made up of incomes from land, labour and remittances.

Barber :

5.29 The barber that belonged to Mithbav and operated for the traditional customary payments (Baluta) does neither stay nor operate in Mithbav at present. The legend goes that he used to harass his ^{attached} customers and get his household work done by them. The villagers prayed ^{to} the village deity and sought redress. The deity obliged and the barber had to flee from Mithbav owing to continued hardships and miseries that befell him 30 years ago. He has his ancestral land at Mithbav still. His son comes to the village to collect rent but does not ply his trade at all.

5.30 The scarcity is made good by two barbers from the nearby village of Hindale, one of whom works almost exclusively in the fishermen locality of Tambaldeg and the other, in the village proper. ^{Two others} ~~Another two~~, one regularly visiting and the other occasionally, from Bagmala, adjacent to Mithbav in the North, also come to Mithbav for work. On the market days two or three barbers, in addition to the above four come to the

market from more distant villages. Each earns about 3 to 4 rupees on that day.

5.31 The barber that stays at Mithbav, has his hair cutting saloon in the market place. The saloon was started 5 years ago. Prior to starting the independent business, he ^{had} served in the Police department for 3 years and in a Bombay textile mill for 1½ years. He had already worked in a Bombay ^{hair cutting} saloon as an apprentice in order to learn the trade. ^{when he realised that} He ~~saw~~ the opportunities ^{hair cutting} ~~at~~ Mithbav and left his service to start the shop, ^{existed}

5.32 He raised a capital of Rs.300/- partly from family funds and partly from relatives for purchasing furniture and instruments. All the debt has been repaid.

5.33 The whole set of the furniture ^{costing about Rs. 110/-} was locally manufactured. ~~costing about Rs. 110/-~~. The owner estimates the present value to be approximately the same as he has kept it in good condition and as prices have gone up. The present set of instruments was purchased 2½ years ago, the purchases being stretched over nearly six months. They cost him about Rs.125/-, the present value being estimated at Rs.90/-. The repairs and sharpening of instruments costs him about 10 rupees annually. He has to send them to Malvan, the adjoining Taluka place, 40 miles away. His other costs include rent Rs.48, Panchayat tax Rs.5/- and Rs.7/- for monsoon repairs of the shop.

5.34 According to him, his daily earnings amount to Rs.2/- to 2½ on a busy week day and about 3 to 3½ on market days. This puts his annual income in the region of Rs.700/-. The owner, however, estimates it at about Rs.500/-. He has to

work single handed in the shop as there are no grown-up males in the family. He works for cash only and does not accept payments in kind.

His custom is made up ^{of the} training college students, teachers, migrants coming from Bombay and others from well-to-do families. He serves persons ^{of} ~~from~~ all castes except the Mhars.

Quarrying and Building Construction :

5.35 Construction of residential and other buildings is a local activity in Mithbav. The woodwork is prepared by the Sutars in the village and quarrying of laterite stones and construction of buildings is done by the local Mhar community.

5.36 It was reported that the Mhars have^s been the only community engaged in this occupation for the last 60 years. The principal reason for this is that the occupation itself is a very hard one, requiring those engaged in it to work under the hard sun for six to eight hours a day. The Mhars, the lowest community socially and economically, undertook the occupation, as they did not have other adequate sources of livelihood, like cultivation or trading. It was also reported that none of the other communities took to the occupation as they possessed lands and received cash remittances from Bombay. They did not feel the need to explore the possibilities of this occupation. Over the years, it is quite probable that the Mhars became expert masons and came to be identified with the occupation.

5.37 Quarrying of stone blocks used in construction ^{is} ~~was~~

also done by the Mhars. Quarrying and construction (masonry) were allied occupations in the village, in the sense that both were done by the Mhars. The two occupations, however, required different skills, quarrying being ^a more elementary type of work, mainly manual and masonry, the more skilled of the two, requiring knowledge and experience of preparing mortar, alignment and building walls, preparation of the foundation etc. This difference in the two skills was reflected in the division of work between various members of construction groups of the village. The younger members were engaged in quarrying while the older members actually built the houses.

5.38 The stone quarries are situated in the hill range passing through the middle of the village. The lands situating the quarries are under private ownership. There is an abundance of laterite rock formation in the hills and as such there are no complicated contract deeds between the owner of the land and the person desiring to cut out his requirements of stone blocks. It is a simple consent ^{from} of the owner to dig into the land at a predetermined rate of royalty payment. The owner of the lands gets 5 laterite blocks for every 100 pieces taken out.

5.39 There were two construction groups (called 'companies' locally) at Mithbav during the survey year. One of them has been functioning for the last 50 years. Till 10 years back it was the only company. In that year, some of the member broke away to form the second company. The headman of the older company is the Mhar representative on the Panchayat. It is the bigger of the two, with 9 members including the headman. The new company has 7 members.

5.40 The company is a group of person ^{that} who undertakes quarrying and building contracts jointly. All the members ^{are} ^{expected to} work in both ^{the} types of work and divide the contract money equally. By practice, however, those who are more experienced in masonry are engaged in building work while others, generally the younger, stronger and ~~a~~ less experienced members, do the quarrying work. In the old company 5 persons do the building work while others do quarrying. All, however, get equal share in the contract money. The womenfolk of all the members help in quarrying, by removing the red earth and stone pieces from the site. They do not get any additional wages.

5.41 Contracts for quarrying or building are taken jointly or separately. In the case of a joint contract, the rates are determined single operationwise, it being different for taking out the stone blocks, for erecting the walls and for constructing ~~the~~ arches above windows and doors, ^{the last operation} requiring more skilled work.

5.42 The rates for quarrying stone ^{blocks} differ according to place of delivery. They are 18 to 20 rupees per 100 blocks for delivery at the quarry and Rs.20 to 22 for delivery upto the cart track, about a furlong ^{or two} away. The purchaser has to

spend transport charges amounting to 8 to 10 rupees for 100 blocks from the quarry to his house. His total purchase price amounts to about 30 rupees.

5.43 The building rate amounts to about 6 to 7 square feet ^{built surface} per rupee. A team of 6 persons can erect a wall of 75 sq. feet in a day's time. Their labour amounts to about Rs.2/- per person. According to local estimates, a house worth 1000 rupees, requires construction labour worth Rs.200. When the work is heavy, the company engages separate labour to carry mortar, at the rate of Re.1/- per day and pays the wages out of the contract money.

5.44 If a member is absent, his wages for that day are deducted from his total share. Members, who can get work separately are allowed to do that work on the above condition. It was reported that ^{wages for work often} such piece rate amounts to Rs.2 to 2½ per day as compared to the rate of Rs.1½ to 2 earned by working in the company.

5.45 Every mason owns a set of tools required in the occupation. The set costs about 25 to 30 rupees. The headman owns tools worth about 40 to 50 rupees, he having certain specialised instruments such as the level bottle, measuring tape, the angle etc. The repair charges amount to about Rs.5 per annum, per set.

5.46 Construction activity is carried on during the fair weather months, from October to May. The companies accept building contracts from other villages within a radius of 10 miles at the same rates. No separate travelling allowance, however, is paid to the company.

5.47 It was reported that building companies from outside are also brought to Mithbav. The local Mhars, however, do

- 4 -

not work with them.

5.48 The General Family Schedule reported 19 families with quarrying and masonry as the main occupation. There were 23 working males in the above 19 families. The subsidiary occupation of 5 families was reported to be cultivation, 2 families received regular cash remittance and the rest worked as labourers mainly agricultural. The womenfolk of 6 families did not do any gainful labour, 1 family reporting no necessity to do so. Of the remaining 13, 5 reported working as periodical agricultural labourers, the remaining 8 reported ^{ing} absence of employment though they were prepared to do work.

5.49 The 19 families, pursuing the occupation of quarrying and building construction, reported a total income of Rs.4645, or Rs.202 per working male. The following table gives the break down of the total family income and proportions of the same ^{according to source} in different occupations.

Table 5.4. *Distribution of total family incomes according to source.*

	<u>Rs.</u>	<u>Proportion</u>
Total family income	6330	100.00
Income from quarrying and construction	4645	73.38
Remittances from Bombay	435	6.87
Casual labour work	675	10.66
Balance mainly from cultivation.	575	9.09
<i>Total family income</i>	<u>6330</u>	<u>100.00</u>

It can be seen that income from the occupation amounts to nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the total family income. Income from labour work forms the next biggest source of livelihood, followed by cultivation. ~~Of the 12 families reported cultivation, 11 were tenant cultivators.~~

Wood Sawing :

5.50 Mithbav is a comparatively big village with 1130 families and ~~900~~⁹⁴⁵ houses. Sawn timber is required for many purposes such as house repairs, construction of new houses, furniture for shops, wood planks etc. All sawing is done by hand.

5.51 Sawing is done by hoisting the log on to a crude platform. Sawyers, working in pairs, stand beneath and on the top of the log and saw it gradually, inch by inch. Hand-sawing is an extremely tiring type of work, and as such can be done only for 5 to 6 hours a day. Rest has to be taken, twice or thrice during the day's work.

5.52 It was reported that there were 3 batches, or 'companies' doing this work. A batch consists of four persons or two pairs. Actually only 7, instead of 12, reported this occupation. The principal occupation of 5 of the above was cultivation. ~~The principal occupation of 5 of the above was cultivation,~~ the remaining two being agricultural labourers. In all the 7 cases, wood sawing was ^{reported as} a subsidiary occupation.

5.53 It may be noted here that this occupation was almost exclusively done by Bhandaris. One of the twelve is a Devli by caste and is the headman of his company of four. The other two companies have also a headman each. The headman generally moves about finding work. He is generally an experienced person and as such can make correct estimates of cost and time. *a large blade of steel 8 to 10 feet length and 9 inches in breadth with wooden handles at both ends*

5.54 Each pair possesses a saw, which costs about Rs.40. It was estimated that there were about 10 saws, counting old and new ones. Saws are purchased from money received from work done or labour money. A saw was reported to give service

- A -

for about 4 years. The saws are to be sharpened constantly. It was estimated that about a dozen files for sharpening the teeth of the saw are required to keep one saw in working order. ^{a season} The price of one dozen files amounts to about 35 rupees.

5.55 After the execution of a contract to saw wood, the receipts are divided equally between all members of the company. The average rate of wages in the occupation was estimated to be Rs.2 per day per worker, exclusive of cost of files.

5.56 The working season is from November to April, a period of 5 to 6 months. It was reported that work was generally available ^{throughout of} continuously during the season. During ~~of~~ free days, the members of the companies, work as independent labourers in repairing of roofs, rethatching of houses, constructing compound walls etc. In the event of a company ^{member} hand being engaged in some other work of the above sort, the company hires casual labour at Rs.1-8-0 per day.

5.57 Sawing rates are quoted by square elbow lengths in case of heavy jungle wood and by linear elbow lengths in case of coconut ^{tree} wood. The former rate is Rs.30 for 100 square elbow lengths or 225 sq. feet of ~~saw~~ surface and the latter is Rs.12 for 100 elbow length or 150 feet. This difference in the two rates is on account of greater labour and wear ^{and} ^{Saws & files} ~~tear~~ of tools in the former case. The rates are uniform for all the 3 companies, though slight variations were reported to be possible, depending upon the magnitude and urgency of work as well as the type of wood sawn.

5.58 Members of a company were free to break away from the company. There was no binding. By custom, however, a

member worked in one company throughout a season. The headman of one company reported that the original members of his company, formed 9 years ago, broke away three year back. They ~~had~~ returned during the survey year. The headman, meanwhile fulfilled the contracts by taking new members.

5.59 The 7 families, reporting wood sawing as their subsidiary occupation, earned an average income of Rs.200 from the occupation. 5 were cultivators cultivating 1.5 acres of land on an average. Income from ~~the~~^{sawing} occupation amounted to 41% of the reported total family income of Rs.3500.

5.60 According to the above mentioned headman, a total of Rs.4000 to 5000 worth of sawing ^{is} done during an average year. The work ^{is almost} was equally distributed between the 3 companies. He also reported that if available, work at other nearby villages is also accepted. All work is done on a contract basis, the company undertaking to saw a given quantity of wood within a stipulated period of time.

The Cobbler (Chambhar) :

5.61 There are only two Chambhar families at Mithbav. They pursue the hereditary occupation of shoemaking but also have to do other types of labour to supplement their income. Both the families reside in the Mharwada, where the Mhars, ^{who are} ~~also~~ the untouchables, stay. The Chambhar is ^{considered} also an untouchable.

5.62 The occupation is carried ^m in the front portion of the house. The tools are few in number and are hereditarily owned. They have been in the family for more than two decades and are used sparingly. Neither owns the three faced anvil used by Chambhars in bigger towns. A bare stone serves the purpose. Repair charges are also few, tempering and sharpening of the tools costing a rupee or two annually.

5.63 Leather, the raw material required for preparing the shoes, is prepared locally by tanning hides of dead animals. The dead animals are flayed by ~~these~~ Mhar village servants who are ~~currently~~ in the service of the Talathi. The hides are sold by them to the Chambhars alternately, according to custom. The rate of livestock death is the principal factor in the supply of hides. It was reported that ~~as~~ as many as 60 heads of cattle died during the previous year ^{survey} and hides were available in plenty. During the survey year however, hides were scarce owing to few deaths. One of the cobblers reported that he had to turn down many orders for shoes due to this scarcity.

5.64 Another difficulty experienced by the cobblers is that ready leather is not available ^{at} Mithbav. It can

- 11 -

be brought from Kolhapur, which, however, entails additional *transport* costs. The cobbler has to visit Kolhapur himself. In addition, the craftsmanship is of a crude type, the pair of shoes finally prepared fetching a low price because of the crude manufacture. It is therefore uneconomic to bring ready leather from Kolhapur.

5.65 Hides are sold to the Chambhars at rates that have been set down by the villagers. There are two sets of rates, one for the rainy season and the other for the ^{dry} summer season. The rates in the former period are kept considerably ~~low~~ low, as tanning during wet weather is difficult and expensive. The rates are as follows :

	<u>Monsoon Rate</u>	<u>Summer Rate</u>
Buffalo hide	Rs. 2/-	Rs. 4/-
Bullock hide	Rs. 2/-	Rs. 5/-
Cow hide	Rs. 0/8/-	Rs. 1/-

5.66 The process of tanning takes nearly five weeks. The hide is first cleaned and washed. It is then treated with a chemical solution prepared out of barks of certain trees and hirda. The barks and hirda are collected from the jungles by the cobbler and his wife. After treating with these chemicals, the hide has to be kept in lime solution for nearly a month. This process is not continuous, the hide being washed intermittently. The lime solution treatment requires a ^{total} period of 5 to 6 days. ~~total~~. The hair falls off during this process and the leather becomes ready for preparation of shoes and chappals. The delicate skin of young cattle is used as thread for sewing ~~the~~ shoes and chappals.

- 1 -

5.67 Five or six pairs of shoes or chappals can be prepared from a single hide of average size, a pair costing about 2½ to 3 rupees according to size and the material used. About 6 to 7 hours are required to prepare a pair. | The net income from a single pair of shoes (of the crude type) amounts to about 1½ to 2 rupees. One of the cobblers reported the preparation of 60 pairs during the year 1953-54, the year previous to the survey. When in need, work is done for kind payment also, each cobbler collecting about one to two maunds of paddy every year.

5.68 The type of country limits the demand for footwear at Mithbav. During the rainy season all footpaths and ^{cart-tracks} ~~gullies~~ turn into rivulets. The main road also becomes muddy and wet. The roads are muddy and uneven during the rest of the year. The living is of a ^{subsistence} ~~low~~ type and does not afford the luxury of having shoes. In addition the ^{village} roads and ^{cart tracks} ~~gullies~~ are lined with trees, ~~that~~ keep them cool. All these factors have contributed to the low demand for footwear. A number of shoes are also imported from Kolhapur, with which the village is in daily contact. Kolhapur is known for leather, ^{goods} ~~ware~~, mainly shoes, that are ^{much} better in quality and finish.

5.69 The cobblers attend the weekly market for ~~doing~~ ^{getting} repair work. The weekly market is attended by 3 or 4 cobblers from the nearby villages of Hindale and Dahibav. Each earns about a rupee on an average ~~on the~~ market day.

5.70 One of the cobblers, reported the preparation of lime during summer. It is prepared by burning sea-shells, that are collected by him and his wife. 2½ baskets of such shells, requiring two days for collection, yield 10 payalees

- 4 -

of lime. The process requires 200 dung cakes, costing 1 rupee and the joint labour of the cobbler and his wife. The shells, after being burnt, are to be ground into a paste. This work is said to be very injurious to health.

5.71 Both the husband and wife ^{have} has to do other labour work. The wife works in the fields on daily wages during the agricultural season and in construction works i.e. carrying earth etc., during the fair season. The cobbler goes about the villages finding work such as chopping wood, carrying stones etc. The family lives in a mud hut of ^{its} their own, standing on free leased land.

5.72 Improvement in occupation, in the opinion of the above cobbler, meant the ^{setting up a} opening of regular shop in the market place so that ready-made shoes and chappals can be displayed. Though he could not prepare footwear of modern designs, he believed that he could get better custom on account of the low price of his shoes and sturdy construction. The ^{starting} opening of such a shop was, however, not possible for ^{him} ~~him~~, as it would require an initial outlay of nearly 400/500 rupees, which it was impossible for him to raise.

Mithbav Silica Mines :

5.73 The mines are situated near the sea shore, 2 miles to the west of Mithbav. They were started in December 1954.

The country around Mithbav is very hilly. The owner casually picked up some white stones and out of curiosity got them analysed by an expert at Bombay at a cost of Rs.30/-. It was found that the stones contained 98.5 % of silica sand from which silicate of soda and glass are manufactured.

5.74 The mines are situated in the western extreme of ^{the} hillock running east west. The owner of the mines ^{is} ~~was~~ a ^{the} joint owner of an area of 5 acres and 29 gunthas on the hillock, where the mines are situated. Of this land, only 5 gunthas are being used for the mines at present. There are 22 joint owners, the land belonging to a section of the Loke family. It was amicably settled between the joint owners that the ^{mine} ~~owner~~ might operate the mines by paying an annual goodwill of Rs.100/- to be shared by the remaining 21 owners, in addition to paying all revenue assessment and local cesses.

5.75 The hillock is 60 ft. in height and is expected to contain silica sand below a layer of about 5 ft. of red earth. The deposits of silica sand reach down to sea level. Contents below this level have not yet been analysed.

5.76 The owner began operating the mines since December 1953. He ^{reported} ~~had to incur~~ a loss of Rs.3000/- as he was uninitiated in the business aspect. He gave a higher wage rate for carrying the sand from the hillock to the sea shore and from there to the country craft in boats. He paid higher freight charges

and as he had no previous contract with any buyer at Bombay, had to incur higher costs of storage^{etc.}. In addition to all this, about 1000 bags of silica sand rotted away during the rainy season along with the bags as timely transport was not available. The mines can be operated as a business proposition only as long as sea transport is available. Transport by land is impossible.

5.77 The work on the mines had to be discontinued on account of the initial loss. The owner could not raise the capital needed. He, therefore, sought out a Bombay dealer who could invest the capital and also purchase the silica sand.

5.78 The mines were restarted in December 1954, after finalising lease conditions with the Government. These were, ^{that of} showing a bank account of one lac of rupees and an income tax clearance certificate. The lease was taken out in the name of the Bombay dealer and is for 20 years initially. 5% of the sale value of the total production of silica sand is to be paid to the Government as royalties. Under a separate agreement, the Bombay dealer pays Rs.100/- annually to the joint owners of the land in addition to the revenue assessment and local cesses. The former owner now works as the Manager of the mines for a monthly salary of Rs.150/-. He ~~did~~ ^{does} not receive any commission.

5.79 A layer of 5 feet of red earth has to be dug out in order to get at the silica deposits. Occasionally this upper layer is even 10 ft. in depth. Two types of deposits are found. The silica layers are soft in places and in the form of hard rock in other places. At present only the soft

silica sand (i.e. loose sand) is dug out and exported. This contains one percent less of silica i.e. 97½% than the conglomerates which are more pure in content and more often found. They are heaped on one side of the mines and are not used at all. The Manager thinks that greater and cheaper production ^{would be} possible if these silica rocks ^{are} were crushed and powdered. It would need a small mechanical crusher which might cost about 10 thousand rupees. The silica yielded would also be better in quality. The installation of the ~~above-mentioned~~ mechanical crusher is not possible due to non-availability of the required capital. The Bombay dealer, who is also ^{the sole &} ~~a partner and a~~ buyer, is not prepared to lend the capital.

S. 80 After the silica is dug, it is carried down to the foot of the hillock in iron baskets. It is then ^{sifted} ~~sifted~~ through iron sieves and filled in bags for carrying it to the sea. This is done by female labour, each carrying a 2 maund bag on her head. Here the silica is filled into a regular 4 maund bags and is taken to the awaiting country craft on ^{smaller} boats. The distance from the foot of the hill to the sea is ^{about} ~~2~~ four furlongs.

S. 81 Certain difficulties ~~also~~ arise in the transport of silica sand to Bombay. There are three regular country crafts that carry the sand to Bombay in addition to others that are engaged as and when available. The difficulty arises when there is a greater demand for vessels in ~~the~~ southern ports. Production has to be slowed down due to the non-availability of vessels during such periods. As the country crafts have to depend on

wind and tides, a certain delay is also caused. The possibility of exporting the sand by steamer has not been explored as the place lies mid way between the Devgad and Malvan ports. Even if it were possible, costs of loading would be much greater as the steamer would halt far away in the sea and for a much shorter time.

5.82 The implements owned by the mines, their prices

and average duration of life are as follows :

Table 5.5 *Implements owned by the mines and their value*

<u>Implements</u>	<u>Nos.</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Duration (Life)</u>
1. Spades	6	10	1 year
2. Pick-axes	24	75	2 years
3. Crowbars	6	50	4 "
4. Iron baskets	36	40	2 "
5. Seives	4	50	1 year
6. Hammers (big)	4	25	6 years
7. Hammers (small)	6	25	6 "

5.83 A sum of Rs.20/- per month is spent for the repairs of the above implements, on an average. In addition, a temporary hut, costing Rs.40/- is erected on the site for the purpose of keeping the implements and other materials. This hut is demolished at the beginning of the monsoons.

5.84 The mine is operated for 8 months a year, from October to May. 25 male and 25 female labourers work daily, on an average. They work for 8 hours a day and get one holiday a week.

5.85 The type of work and the average daily number of workers and their wage rates are as follows. The rates are fixed by the manager after seeing the amount of work done by each labourer.

Table 5.6. Types of work, wage rates and number of labourers. 158

<u>Type of work</u>	<u>Wage rate</u>	<u>No. of labourers.</u>
1. Drilling and loosening the sand.	Rs. 1½ to 2.	15 (about 10 cwt. of sand is unearthed by each daily)
2. Filling the sand into basket and sieving	Rs. 1 to 1½	10
3. Carrying the sand down to the foot of the hilllock.	As. 12 to 14.	25 (Females)

S. 86 The labour, entirely female, that carries the sand from the foot of the hill to the sea is paid at the rate of two and a quarter annas per bag of 1 cwt. or 4 maunds. The carrying is done in cement bags of 2 maunds at a time. 10 such trips are done on an average day by each female worker. The average earning of such a worker is 11 to 13 annas per day.

S. 87 The wages are paid on a monthly basis. Their monthly wage bill comes to ~~3000~~ rupees. This however varies according to the volume of production and the attendance of the labourers. The charges for carrying the sand by boats from the seashore to the awaiting vessel including loading at both ends, are also paid by the mines at the rate of 14 rupees per 100 bags of 4 maunds each.

S. 88 The average daily outturn is 8 to 9 mt tons of silica sand. The sale price is fixed at annas 12 per bag, the freight charges from Mithav to Bombay and the cost of bags being borne by the buyer, who is also the financing partner. This price ^{it was reported} ~~is~~ about half the average price at which silica sand ^{was} is purchased by the same dealer from other suppliers.

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He is, however, ^{the former owner} a partner of the concern and in addition to the freight charges, bears the costs of transporting the sand from the docks to his factory and the customs charges. He has a factory for manufacturing silicate of soda at Bombay.

S. 89 The mines have to pay a royalty to the Government, in the form of a fixed percentage (5%) of the sales price realised. This royalty at 5% on the above rate of 12 annas per bag amounts to about Rs.950/- on the average annual production amounting to about 1250 tons or 25000 bags.

S. 90 The cost of production amounts to 10 annas a bag f.o.b. A margin of 2 annas per bag or about Rs.3125/- on the annual production emerges. The manager is paid^a monthly salary of Rs.150/-, i.e. Rs.1800/- a year, the difference apparently being taken by the ^{dealer at Bombay} financing partner at Bombay, who ^{and customs} also bears the freight/charges and other costs of transport.

S. 91 The manager is also the legal attorney of the mines. He supervises the daily working and looks after all cash transactions. According to him, it would be more economic if a factory for manufacturing silicate of soda is started locally. The costs of transport would be reduced to a great extent. As the entire hillock is believed to contain silica sand, such a factory would be assured of the supply of silica sand for a considerable length of time, even upto a hundred years. The difficulties, however, are many. The cost of installing such a factory would amount to about 30 to 40 thousand rupees. Technicians would have to be engaged at a high cost. The greatest difficulty is that of transporting the manufactured silicate of soda and glass.

S.92 Another major difficulty is that of finance which prevents the manager bringing into effect certain measures to reduce costs. According to him a cart track from the foot of the hillock to the sea shore could be laid and a couple of bullock carts purchased for carrying the silica upto the sea-shore. The mines could also purchase a couple of boats to carry the sand to the vessels. The increased transport facilities would require a greater volume of production which would in its turn require the installation a crusher referred to earlier and also deep level mining equipment. At present a depth of only 25 ft. has been reached. An additional 5 ft. of depth could be reached at the existing methods of production. All this means additional finance, which is not available locally. The financing partner is not prepared to invest additional capital in the mines.

Flour Mills :

5.93 Like all residents of coastal villages, the staple cereal of the population of Mithbav was rice before the introduction of rationing and compulsory issue of mixed rations. Processing of rice, such as dehusking and polishing was done at home during this period. Dehusking was done with the help of hand driven gridding stone, with the rotating upper wheel made up of wood, so as not to crush the grain. Polishing was done by hand-pounding the dehusked grain. It was reported that there was a ^{regular} batch of females engaged in this work. Mainly ^{mainly} they were attached to certain well-to-do families who were generally the owners of land cultivated by them. ^{the families of these females.} Some were also available on wages. Majority of families processed their grain at home. Additional requirements of rice were purchased from the shops where polished rice was available. There was no grinding of rice.

5.94 The introduction of rationing, non-availability of the full ration quota in rice and issue of other cereals brought about a change in the food ~~of~~ habits of the people. Unlike rice, cereals like wheat, ^{gour} ~~guar~~ and bajri had to be ground before consumption. Till 1949, when two flour mills were started at Mithbav, grinding of ^{the cereals} ~~corn~~ was done mostly at home by women.

5.95 There are 3 flour mills at Mithbav, 2 started in 1949 and the third in 1950. The 3 flour mills are located almost equidistant from each other, one ~~is~~ run by a Ehandari near the market place, the second run by a Vaishya grocer

in the centre of the village in Waghoba wadi and the third in coastal locality of Tambaldeg, to the extreme west of the village. The first and the third were run as ~~the~~ main occupations of the owners whereas in the case of the middle one, the mill run by the Vaishya was, the owner's main occupation was grocery trade.

5.96 The first mill, ~~to be installed~~ was the one in the market place run by the Ehandari owner. The owner had a ^{to ddy} ~~to ddy~~ shop at Devgad, which had to be closed in April 1948 on the introduction of prohibition in the State. Four months later in the same year, the Grocer realised the advantage of the central situation of his grocery shop and started a flour mill and attracted all the custom from nearly half the village including Tambaldeg. He reported raising of a loan of Rs.3500/- locally for this purpose and purchased a Petter 10 H.P. engine from Bombay for Rs.2800 and flour mill (chakki) for Rs.675. The loan had been nearly repaid in full. After about a year, the Gabit installed his flour mill at Tambaldeg after watching the custom attracted by the two mills. The mill saved the residents of the Gabit locality much time. The Gabit also reported raising of a loan of Rs.2500 per annum. The loan has since been repaid in full. Capital to the extent of Rs.4000 additionally required came from the savings of the family. He purchased a Yammar 30 H.P. Engine for Rs.6000 and a Chakki for Rs.500.

The Ehandari, however, reported that all the initial investment of about Rs.5500 was done from family savings. He purchased a second hand engine for Rs.3000, a chakki for Rs.700,

and a huller for Rs.150 and built a temporary structure to house the flour mill, at a cost of Rs.1700. The engine subsequently broke down and could not be repaired. He purchased a Wittet engine for Rs.3300 at Bombay.

5.97 The table given below gives an operative picture of the occupation, individually. The incomes are those reported by the owners, net of the expenses of the business and were arrived at by calculating the approximate gross volume of work done during the year.

As regard machines, the purchase prices are given as the owners were unable to assess their present values.

Table 5.7 Equipment operative costs and incomes of the flourmills.

Caste of the owner	Cost of Engine & Installation - charges	Cost of Chakki	Cost of huller	Cost of Water pump	Average Annual	Average annual	Oil (Crude & Lubricating)	Attendant	(In rupees)		
					cost of Engine repairs & belts.	expenditure incurred on			Average annual Work done in maunds Chakki Huller	Average Net Income (net)	
1. Bhandari	3300 350	700	150	60	100	50	600	300	750	150	500
2. Vaishya	2800 200	675	75	-	80	50	420	540	1000	150	750
3. Gabit	6000 300	500	200	200	135	75	750	-	1000	450	1000
	201600 1875 425 260 <hr/> 23160	1875	425	260	315	175	1770	840			2250

The table shows that the Bhandari and Vaishya owners have attendants to run the mill. It may be mentioned here that the Bhandari reported another attendant who was his nephew and was acted mainly as a supervisor and cashier. The reported salary of the nephew at Rs.60/- per month has not been noted in the table. If it were included, the business shows a loss of about Rs.200 per year, which according to the business was a fact. In the case of the Vaishya owner, the services of the attendant, paid at Rs.45 per month, were at times shared by the grocery business also.

5.98 The quantity of cereals ground or dehusked, under *on the basis of average daily work and the number of days of work in a year* the category of 'work done', are calculated and are near approximations. The rates are uniform at Rs.2 for grinding 1 maund of grain and Re.1 for dehusking 1 maund of paddy. The quantity of paddy dehusked by the Gabit is 3 times that dehusked by the other two, individually. This may be accounted for by two reasons. Firstly, a considerable amount of grain is still dehusked and polished at home by cultivating families forming the bulk of custom of the first two flour mills. Secondly, the Gabits who sell fish for paddy, do not own grinding stones for dehusking and as such have to bring all their paddy to the mill.

5.99 Regarding repairs, the Vaishya and the Gabit reported that they did the minor repairs themselves. The Bhandari reported the fetching of a mechanic from Shirgaon, about 20 miles away.

5.100 Regarding custom, all the three complained of a gradual fall in the volume. The reason, it was reported, was that people were gradually reverting to their former food

habit# of eating rice only and as such, consumption of cereals like jowar and bajri was falling. This directly brought down the turnover.

S. 101 The Gabit reported an additional use of the engine. He has planted 50 coconut sapplings and 12 mango grafts near the floor mill, situated in the residential plot itself, and has installed a Kirloskar pump at a cost of Rs.200. The pump worked by the engine, is used for watering the plantation.

Rope-making :

5.102 Preparing ropes from coconut coir is an indigenous craft available in all villages in the coastal districts. The raw material, i.e. coir fibre prepared from the outer shell of ripe coconuts is available in plenty. The number of coconut trees at Mithbav are estimated to number about 10,000, each *each estimated to yield* yielding about 10 coconuts on an average. The requirements of Mithbav of ropes of various types ^{are} ~~is~~ estimated to be about 10 khandis or 200 maunds. These require the outer shells of about 40,000 coconuts. A part of the supply of ready made ropes comes from round about villages and is sold in the weekly market. It was also reported that a certain quantity of coir fibre is prepared at Bagnala, the contiguous village to the north. It was estimated that about 25 to 30% of the coconut shells are utilised in the preparation of coir fibre at Mithbav proper. The rest are used as fuel.

5.103 Ropes are required for a variety of purposes like drawing water from wells, construction of houses, boats and nets, for agricultural implements etc.

5.104 The preparation of ropes is a simple operation and does not require technical training. It was reported that a number of cultivators and fishermen prepared their own requirements of rope. It was presumably due to this reason that a small number of families reported rope making as an occupation. The practice of getting ropes from a ropemaker was to visit him and ask him to prepare the required length. The rope maker would deliver the prepared ropes whenever they were ready. *The alternative is to buy from the weekly market.*

5.105 The fibre is prepared by the rope makers themselves

as ready-made fibre is expensive, It was reported, that certain families, particularly from Bagmala buried coconut huska, a process in the preparation of coir, and after about a year sold the 'mine' to intending purchaser at a price much lower than that of ready coir fibre. The purchaser has to prepare the fibre from the decomposed coconut husks himself.

5.106 Of the seven families reporting rope making as an occupation, only one reported it as the main occupation. The head of the family was a woman who mainly sold coir ropes in the village market. 2 of the remaining 6 families also reported preparation and selling of coir ropes in the nearby market as their subsidiary occupation. The remaining six prepared and sold ropes at home but ^{of} these four families reported ownership of coconut trees, the numbers owned by individual families being 10, 16, 20 and 125. A large part of the raw material, i.e. coconut husks, was apparently available from owned trees.

5.107 The main occupation of the six families was either cultivation of leased land (3 families), remittances from Bombay (Rs.200 and Rs.240 annually for 2 families) or agricultural labour; income reported from the subsidiary occupation of rope-making amounted to about 15% of the total family income.

5.108 For preparing one maund of coir, the outer shells of about 250 ripe green coconuts are required. The coir is weak if the coconuts are not ripe. The fibrous husks are buried in a shallow pit on the banks of the river, where there is an assured presence of subsoil water. They are allowed to rot for a whole year in the pit.

After a year, these husks are dug out and cleaned

in the river water. All organic material which has rotted during the year is washed away leaving the pure coir fibre. It is spread out on the banks to dry, after which it is brought home. These dried husks are then pressed and beaten against stones in order to free single coir threads. They are loosely twisted and rolled into a ball. The raw material is then ready for making ropes of required thickness and length.

S. 109 The green husks of 250 coconuts cost 3 rupees. The digging up, washing drying and beating require about 7 man-days of labour. Generally, these operations are done by all the members of the family as and when they find a little spare time. The drying of the coir and bringing it home is mainly done by the women folk. Thus taking into account the cost of green husks and the labour spent, a maund of coir costs about 8 rupees. The market price of ready coir fibre is 12 rupees per maund.

S. 110 Ropes are prepared according to specifications and on order only. About 4 hours are required to twist a rope $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch thick and 15 feet in length. It can be sold for 8 annas. About 30 such pieces can be prepared out of one maund of coir. A maund of coir, thus fetches an income of 12 rupees, exclusive of the cost of husks, which represents the labour spent on the entire process. It is considered a net income by the maker as ~~the actual~~ labour spent is not at all considered because all the operations are done whenever time permits and at all hours. The preparation of ropes is generally not allowed to interfere with agricultural operations on owned land or for wages. Rope making is only a subsidiary occupation.

case
5.111 In the family selected for study, the preparation of ropes i.e. the twisting is done by the head of the family only. This is done by hand. It could also be done with the help of a wheel but according to the respondent, there was no such necessity because the demand was steady and not increasing. During the slack season i.e. after the harvesting of crops is over he works for about 7 hours a day in preparing ropes. The custom get by him keeps him busy for five months in a year.

5.112 He prepared his own coir-fibre. He owns twenty five coconut trees which yield about 200 to 300 coconuts every year. He sells the coconuts and earns about 25 rupees. The ~~outer shells~~ ~~green husks~~ go into the making of coir fibre. He also buys ~~green husks~~ ^{additive} ~~requirements there~~ in the village. It is seldom that he buys ready coir from the market.

5.113 He also prepares ropes for wages alone, should the customer prefer to supply the fibre. He charges 0-8-0 to prepare 25 ft. rope $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. If the rope is to be 1 inch thick, his charges are Rs.1-8-0 for the same length. These rates are current throughout the village.

5.114 According to him, this occupation can be undertaken only as a subsidiary one, as there are certain difficulties. There is not enough demand in the village, so that the occupation can supply enough work throughout the year. About 15 to 20 families in Mithbav are engaged in making ropes and selling them. None of these ^{does} ~~do~~ it as a principal or whole time occupation. There are many other families who prepare their own requirements of rope also. Secondly, it is difficult to

find capital that would be required if business ~~is~~^{is} to be expanded. The tenancy act has affected him adversely, disabling him from mortgaging land in order to raise capital. Thirdly, the physical effect of preparing the ropes by hand has also to be considered. Much heat is generated during the preparation, affecting the sight of the maker. Coir is also considered injurious to health, producing gastric ailments. Those families that pursue this occupation, do it because their needs have increased. The occupation, however, could be extended, according to the opinion of the reporting rope maker, into a profitable business by organising it. It could be mechanised and bigger market could be explored. According to him his income from this occupation amounted to about 100 rupees per year on an average.

Tailoring :

5.115 There are 7 tailors at Mithbav, 6 of these have shops, 5 in the actual market place and one in its vicinity. Only one tailor, a Bhandari by caste, has no shop. He works in his house, in Deulwada, immediately behind the market place. Of the six tailors having their shops in the market place, 3 are Marathas and 3 Gabits.

5.116 All the tailors reported good business in the sense that they got enough business to keep them busy during the season of 8 to 9 months after the rains are over. The custom is mainly periodical, coincident with the marriage season, (December and May), the Shivratri festival (March) and the Ganesh Chaturthi, an important festival falling in September. Work during these periods was reported to be about 70% of the total years work.

5.117 4 out of the 7 tailors inherited the occupation. In all these cases the craft was learnt at home along with school education. Of the remaining 3, two learnt the occupation in Mithbav itself by working as apprentices and one ~~at~~ learnt it at Malvan. Three of the seven reported that they had worked at Bombay before starting their shops at Mithbav. Those who inherited the occupation began the occupation with the old family sewing machine. The rest began by buying second hand machines. Only one tailor reported the purchase of a new machine for Rs.365/-. To purchase it, he had to sell his old machine for Rs.135/-, raise an interest free loan of Rs.150/- from relatives and to make good the balance from family savings. The machines are kept in use by constant repairs and replacements.

It was reported that a new machine costs about Rs.200 by way of repairs and replacements in the first 10 years. The repairs and replacement costs there upon increase. Excepting the new machine referred to above, all the machines at Mithbav are more than 10 years old. The reported annual costs of repairs and replacements varied from Rs.25 to Rs.50, depending upon the case. ^{State & specific machine} The repairs are to be done by taking the machine to Kolhapur. The expenses are slightly less if there is a travelling mechanic in the village at the time of breakdown. Often he is invited by ~~two~~ tailors who ~~has to~~ pay the mechanics' travelling charges as well, in addition to repair charges. All minor repairs are done by the tailors themselves.

5.118 The rates for sewing different types of clothes are uniform for the whole village. There ^{are} however, slight variations in rates due to change in sizes. Though the tailors prepare pants, shirts and clothes of females and children, none can stitch a coat. Only one, however, reported that he ^{would undertake to stitch} ~~could~~ prepare a coat but only in an emergency.

^{The duration of a days work is between 8 to 10 hours.}
5.119 ~~The work consists of 10 hours a day.~~ All the tailors reported that a full days' work on a machine fetches about two rupees. The incomes in tailoring are more or less uniform, varying between 4 to 6 hundred ^{rupees} ~~rupees~~. These incomes are exclusive of establishment costs such as rent, varying between 50 to 65 in five cases. One tailor has to pay a rent of Rs.30/- only; ~~the~~ last one having to pay no rent, as he works in his house. The incomes are also exclusive of miscellaneous costs of the occupations such as cost of thread, buttons, needles and lubricating oil. As observed above, repair costs depend upon the circumstances of each particular case. They are therefore

not excluded from the incomes given above.

5.120 Regarding custom, all tailors reported that ~~all~~ ^{his ~~own~~ individual} every tailors had clientele, without any prejudices regarding castes. The ^A Maratha tailor, however, expressed that the Gabit community showed a particular preference to Gabit tailors. The only Bhandari tailor is situated in the locality of Deulwada, which is adjoining the Bhandarwada and as such is reported to get custom from them. The reported incomes, however reflect no such tendencies of caste preferences.

5.121 The table given below, gives individual income and expenditure figures of all the tailors.

Table 5.8 Equipment Expenses and incomes of Tailoring establishments at Mithbav

Sr. No.	Caste	Duration of business (years)	Rent & light - X.	Salary of Apprentice	Present value of Medicine machine	Furniture & Fixture	Income from Tailoring	Remarks
1	Maratha	8	50	-	150	40	400	-
2	"	4	50	-	400	-	400	Had an apprentice for one year.
3.	"	8	55	-	200	25	500	-
4	Gabit	15	30	-	150	-	500	Apprentice sharing part work. Cloth & stationery shop.
5.	"	17	65	360	500	100	500	2 Machines. Cloth shop.
6	"	6	60	-	365	50	500	Soda water shop.
7	Bhandari	5	-	-	250	-	600	Prepare clay idols.

X: Expenses on rent and light pertain to the whole establishment and have not been apportioned between different lines of trading under the same roof.

5.122 One tailor has an apprentice in his shop, who is paid Rs.30/- per month. This tailor also sells stationery and cloth. Two more tailors reported having apprentices, one of them working ^{with} his own machine at a tailor who also sells cloth. The tailor reported sharing his work with the apprentice during busy days. The second apprentice works ^{with} another tailor in order to learn the work only and as such is not paid anything at all. The tailor who runs a soda water shop reported help from his two younger brothers whenever there is pressure of work.

5.123 Three tailors are ^{also} engaged in trading activities ~~also~~. One of them runs a cloth shop, another a cloth and stationery shop and the third a soda water shop. Trading in the above goods was started only after the owners had established themselves as tailors in the market place. They saw the advantages of extending their enterprise and began keeping small stock of the above goods. Excepting the tailor selling cloth and stationery, the capital invested in the side activity came from tailoring, the earlier occupation of the owners. The tailor selling cloth and stationery, reported raising of a loan of Rs.450/- at 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ % per annum in the adjoining village of Naringre for the purpose of purchasing initial stocks of stationery and cloth. During the two years since the starting of trading in these lines, he has repaid Rs.250 exclusive of interest. An account of the soda water shop run by the third trading tailor is given elsewhere.

5.124 Income from tailoring in the case of the above three tailors, still remains the largest compared to that from trading,

as is shown below. The income figures are those reported by the tailors themselves.

Table 5.9 Income from Tailoring and joint trading Activity

	Income from Tailoring	Income from Selling
1. Tailoring & Cloth	500	100
2. Tailoring & Cloth & stationery	500	300
3. Tailoring & Sodawater shop	500 400	150 200

S. 125 The Bhandari tailor working in his house, gets adequate custom due to the fact that his father also was a tailor working in the same place. Like his father, the tailor also is engaged in the preparation of clay idols of the Ganpati, much in demand during the Ganapati festival. This activity, according to him, was another reason of his being known in the village and getting adequate custom. Here again, the income from tailoring, Rs.600/- was ^{nearly three times} ~~more than twice~~ than that earned in the preparation of clay idols, Rs. ²⁰⁰ ~~250~~ /-. The latter is however, only seasonal, engaging the tailor for 2 to 3 months during the rainy season. An account of this activity is given elsewhere.

^{it was reported that}
S. 126, In addition to the above, there are three machines in Tambaldeg. These machines, two paddled by ^{foot} ~~fast~~ and one operated by hand, are estimated to cost about 450 rupees, and are used for domestic purpose only. The owner of one, however, reported having a shop in the market place for 16 years. He has however discontinued the occupation since the last three year for reasons of health.

Soda-water shop :

S. 127 The shop was started 10 years ago by the father

of the present owner, at a cost of 350 rupees for purchasing the filling machine. It is estimated to cost about 200 rupees at present. Recent repairs to the machine cost the owner Rs.35/- including transport charges to and from Kālhapur. A set of two gas cylinders costing Rs.85/- each were purchased 8 years ago. They have to be refilled at a cost of Rs.25/-. Three years back the present owner purchased 6 doz. bottles of German make, which still give him satisfactory service. He later purchased 1 gross bottles of Indian make, half of which were broken within two weeks of purchase. The rest he sold for Rs.40, the whole transaction landing him into a loss Rs.200/-.

5.128 In order to cater ^{to} ~~for~~ different tastes and preferences, he also purchased an ice-cream pot and a thermos flask for Rs.130/-. The ^{initial} expenses have not yet been recovered as icecream is not purchased by people except on ^{occasions of} religious fairs and festivities.

5.129 The business runs ~~only~~ for four months in the year, ^{only}, from February to May. He takes his shop to the village of Kunakeshwar, (a) 3 miles away from Mithbav for the annual Mahashivratri fair. He stays for one night and collects about 40 rupees.

5.130 His other expenses are Rs.10/- per month for sugar and ~~essences~~. The rent of Rs.50/- ~~for the shop~~ is shared by ^{the} soda water shop, and the tailoring business.

5.131 According to the opinion of the owner, there was not much scope in this business as it being a village, people were not accustomed to spend on this type of refreshments. He estimated a net income of Rs.150/- from this business.

-R-

178

S. 132 The owner has decided to start a bakery. He has spent Rs.500/- towards the erection of a baking oven for this purpose. It may be noted here that the owner has prepared the desired tin baking trays himself.

Preparation of Ganapati Idols :

S. 133 The festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is the principal festival at Mithbav, occurring in the month of Bhadrapad i.e. in August, ^{September.} The festival is celebrated by all castes. There are however no public celebrations.

S. 134 According to the tailor, ^{who prepares} preparing the idols, about 800 to 900 ganapati idols are prepared every year. Though the general family schedule data reports only 5 persons doing this occupation as a subsidiary one, the tailor reported eight persons engaged in this. Of these 2 each belong to Maratha, Bhandari and Gabit castes, the remaining being a Sonar and a Gurav.

S. 135 The work is only seasonal when all other activities like trading and fishing are either at stand still or are at a low point. The period during which this work is undertaken varies from two to three months, according to the size of output, prior to the actual festival.

S. 136 The ^{particular type of clay required} clay is available in the surrounding hills. The tailor reported a payment of Rs.10/- by way of royalty to the owner of the land, from which the clay is dug out. A depth of about 4 to 5 feet has to be dug for reaching the layers of this type of clay, black in colour and sticky. An additional charge of Rs.3/- per cart-load for digging and transporting it to the village has to be incurred. The Gurav who turns out the largest number of idols, about 100 annually, reported an all told cost of Rs.10/- per cart-load. During the two months prior to the festival, the tailor prepares 50 idols. The tailoring business is closed during these two months. He learnt

the craft from his father, during whose time, as many as 125 idols used to be prepared. He has to work single handed at present.

S. 137 The idols are of two types. About forty-five are prepared by first moulding the various limbs from casts; the limbs are fixed to make a complete idol which is then polished and left to dry. After drying they are to be painted. A smaller number, about 5 or 6 are prepared entirely by hand and are made on order only. These are of a bigger size and of a different individual variety ^{as} ~~as regards style.~~ They require about 2 days each for preparation. The idols prepared from casts are of two sizes and are sold for Rs.3/- and Rs.5/- each. The bigger ones are sold for Rs.10/- each.

S. 138 The materials and their costs, required by him for a season are, colours Rs.30/-; brushes Rs.10/- and paper Rs.2/- (for covering the idols). The brushes can be used only for one season as they get blunted after use on account of fine work of drawing eyes, eyelashes and other lines.

S. 139 He reported a total income of Rs.200/- from the occupation including the above mentioned costs. A net income of Rs.50/- after excluding the above costs and expenses for consumption during the two months, during which there is no income from tailoring, was reported from this occupation. He also reported non-payment of full prices decided earlier to the extent of Rs.15/-.

S. 140 The Gurav, who reported a turnout of 100 idols, reported slight variations in ^{costs} ~~occupation.~~ His cost of materials was : clay Rs.30/- (3 cart loads) ~~and~~ colour and brushes, Rs.50/-.

S. 141 The occupation keeps him busy for 3 months, his brother working full time. The Gurav prepares the idols and also

attends to his own duties of temple worship.

S. 142 He reported a total income of Rs.300/- from this occupation, exclusive of Rs.50/- lost due to non-payment of full prices by customers.

S. 143 All the idols prepared at Mithbav are used locally. The tailor expressed the opinion that the market for idols could be extended. Idols could be sent to nearby villages and market places and an income ^{up to} of Rs.500/- could be earned. The work however requires skilled assistance which is lacking at Mithbav.

Chapter - VILabour Structure :

The table below gives the population figures of Mithbav, classified into two broad categories; (1) Children upto 12 years of age and (2) Adults 13 years of age and above.

No. of Male Children	1019	
No. of Male Adults	1224	
Total Males		2243
No. of Female Children	935	
No. of Female adults	1962	
Total Females		2897
Total Population		5140

Except 30 male and 134 female, all children below 13 years attend school. Of the above only 5 male and 3 female children reported earner status.

The table below gives the classification of families according to the number of male and female earners.

No. of earners in family	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Unspe- cified	Total
Male	492	491	119	14	6	2	-	6	1130
Female	355	507	196	49	13	2	2	6	1130

The first category denotes that there are 492 or 43.55% families without any male earners, a large part of these, being families left at Mithbav by those employed at Bombay. Like wise, there are 355 or 31.43% families without any female earners; almost all the females in these families having reported household work as their occupation.

The table below gives the proportions of families with 1, 2 and 3 male and female earners to total No. of families with one or more earners.

- 2 -

	<u>One earner</u>	<u>Two earner</u>	<u>3 earners</u>
Male	76.95	18.65	2.19
Female	65.42	25.29	6.32

It may be seen that whereas the proportion of families with one male earner is more than that with one female earner, the proportions in the other two categories is more ~~as regards~~ female earners.

The following table presents caste-wise proportions of male and female earners in the 5 principal castes. The proportion of female earners is more than that of male earners in the Maratha, the Bhandari and the Gabit castes. The proportion is almost equal in the Mahars. It ^{is} less than one third in the case of Brahmins.

	<u>Marathas</u>	<u>Gabits</u>	<u>Bhandari & Parits</u>	<u>Mahars</u>	<u>Brahmins</u>
Male	37.5	44.0	40.5	52.6	77.5
Female	62.5	56.0	59.5	47.4	22.5

The table given below, gives the number of families engaged in the four major occupations at Mithbav, either as main or subsidiary.

<u>Occupations</u>	<u>Main Occupation</u>		<u>Subsidiary Occupation</u>	
	<u>No. of families</u>	<u>%age of total</u>	<u>No. of families</u>	<u>%age of total</u>
Agriculture	360	31.8	273	24.2
Agricultural labour	109	9.6	110	9.7
Fishing	183	16.1	107	9.5
Remittances	300	26.5	111	9.8
Total		84.0		53.2

The classification is done according to the data reported in the general family schedule. Two points, however, require specific explanation. Firstly, a strong inclination towards reporting agriculture as the family occupation, main or subsidiary was noted and is reflected in the above table. Thus the number of families who reported agriculture as the family occupation, includes those engaged in other non-agricultural occupations also. Similar is the case with agricultural labour as well as receipt of remittances.

The second point is that families in other occupations also receive remittances from Bombay, in addition to those who expressively reported their dependence on such remittances.

The following table, giving the number of families engaged in other occupations, is therefore given below. Structural and operational details of these occupations as well as the proportionate dependence on those occupations has been described earlier.

<u>6 f</u>	<u>Non-agricultural Occupations</u>	<u>No. of families</u>
	Trading	12
	Tea shop keeping	10
	Tailoring	7
	Flour Mills	3
	Carting	23
	Carpentry	12
	Wood sawing	12
	Quarrying & Construction	19
	Rope making	15
	Cobblers	2
	Silica Mines	1
	Barbar (Hair Cutting Saloon)	1

Labour constitutes the fourth important occupation employing large numbers, only next to cultivation, receipt of remittances and fishing. As can be seen from the table, giving

the occupational distribution of adult males and females, 200 reported agricultural labour and 79 non-agricultural labour as their occupation. This works upto nearly 9% of the total number of male and female adults.

It may also be noted here, that a considerable number of families work as agricultural labour during the cultivation season. The number of families reporting agricultural labour as a subsidiary occupation was 110, whereas those doing it as main, were 109 in number. But for the small cultivated family plot, yielding about a third of requirements of rice and a small remittance from Bombay, these 110 families alongwith others in the lower agricultural groups, could be classified as labour families.

6.14 For the purpose ^{of} getting more detailed information regarding the conditions of labour, an additional schedule was introduced. The selection of labour families for ^{this} inquiry was done ~~at random~~ ^{purposely in order to include} but with the purpose of including all types of labour in the inquiry. This survey therefore may not necessarily ^{give} be a measure to understand the labour & class at Mithbav as a whole. Instead, it gives a general idea of the conditions of employment for different types of labour, the dependence, subsidiary occupations, incomes and then consumption practices.

6.15 A total of 24 schedules were filled. 2 of these ^{had} ~~were~~ to be rejected on account of incomplete filling. The results presented below refer to 22 families only.

6.16 The following table gives the classification of the families according to castes and the sex of the head of the families. *Table 6.10 Caste-wise classification of selected labour families*

Caste	No. of families	Sex & marital Status of Head of family			
		Male married	Male unmarried	Female widows	Female separated
Maratha	10	3	-	6	1
Bhandari	5	2	1	2	-
Devali	1	-	-	1	-
Mahar	6	1+1	-	4	-
Total	22	6+	1	13	1
		1(Widower)			

6.17 It may be seen that as many as 13 families, excluding the separated woman, depend for their livelihood on the labour

of females only. A further classification shows that 11 out of the 14 families were dependent on occupations like salaried services or agriculture whereas 4 out of the 8 male-families were dependent on labour only. The table is given below.

Table 6.11 Occupation of fathers or husbands of the heads of the families.

<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
1. Labour	4	1. Service	6
2. Agriculture	2	2. Agriculture	5
3. Salaried service	1	3. Labour & sub occupation	2
4. Carting	1		Masonry & Piper
	<u>8</u>	4. Labour	<u>1</u>
	=====		<u>14</u>
			=====

It is apparent that most of the families with females as heads of families were not labour families at all. They were driven into the category by circumstances. Regarding the males, 50% belonged to labour families and the rest 50% appear to have been victims of adverse circumstances.

6.18 The average size of a labour family is markedly small compared to the village average as shown in the following table. *Table 6.12. Average size of labour family*

	Total of the village	Labour families in village		Families studied
		No.	% age to total	
No. of families	1130	113	10.0	22
No. of persons	5140	416	8.1	73
Average size of family	4.5	3.7	-	3.3

6.19 Of the 22 families, 12 possess land. Only 4 have reported small incomes from land and only 3 have reported actual cultivation of owned land. All the three belong to the Maratha caste.

6.20 In addition to the above, 6 families, 4 Maratha and 2 Mahar, reported receipts of cash remittances. These are irregular remittances excepting one Mahar family which reported an annual receipt of Rs.120/- in monthly instalments of Rs.10/-.

6.21 There are 12 male and 21 female earners in the 22 labour families under study. The work done by them has been classified into 3 categories namely (1) Agricultural Labour, (2) Non-agricultural labour and (3) Self-employment.

6.22 Agricultural work includes all agricultural operations from ploughing to harvesting. The No. of males and females

engaged in different operations is given below ; *agricultural operations*

Table 6.13 Classification of Males & females in the types of a

	<u>Ploughing</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Carrying</u> <u>manure</u>	<u>Sowing</u>	<u>Trans-</u> <u>planting</u>	<u>Weeding</u>	<u>Harves-</u> <u>ting</u>
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Males	8	-	-	1	1	8
Females	-	6	10	19	19	19

6.23 In addition, 2 males reported plucking coconuts and one tending cattle. One female reported cutting and carrying ^q bushes ^(Kab) needed for burning in rice plots.

6.24 Three males and 2 females do not do agricultural work. They are engaged in the non-agricultural type of work.

In the category of non-agricultural labour, all other work done for wages is included. For males, the different types in this category are chopping fire wood,

- 4 -

roofing, ^{coolie work} hamali, quarry labour, and carrying of bricks and earth in constructional works. The types of work done by females in this category are grinding, carrying earth, hamali and sundry domestic work for wages. Where as all the males do some type of non-agricultural work or other only eight females do non-agricultural work. 13 females do only agricultural labour.

6.25 The category of self employment includes small occupations like preparation of brooms, coir and coir articles, preparation and sale of dung cakes, collection and sale of grass and firewood from the jungles and ^{the last mentioned having been} selling coconuts, reported in one case only. There are 4 families engaged in the preparation of brooms, coir and rope. In 3 out of the 4, ^{families,} both the males (3) and females (3) do the work. In one family only the male member prepares the articles, the female doing only agricultural work. One of the above 3 families also prepare and sell dung cakes. The principal occupation in this category, ~~is~~ however, ^{is} collection and sale of fire wood and hay. This is done mainly by females. Those collecting and selling hay number 10 (9 females and 1 male) and 4 females collect and sell fire wood. They also work as agricultural labourers during the season.

6.26 The rates of wages are given below separately for males and females and ^{for} the different types of work. Four cases of different types of payment are also given at the end.

Rates of Wages

1. Agricultural work :

Males : Rs.1-8-0 per day for all operations.

1) There is a case where a male has received

Re.1/- or 2 payalees of paddy per day for harvesting and another case where a male labourer has been paid at the rate of Rs.2/- per day for ploughing. For all purposes, the rate is Rs.1-8-0 per day.

- ii) The males include one Saldar, who does all types of work in addition to agricultural operations, such as bringing grass from jungles, attending cattle while grazing etc. He is paid at a flat cash rate of Re.0-8-0 per day or Rs.180/- per year. This person works in the house of a relative.
- iii) Another case of time payment of wages is that a male labourer, who was engaged for ploughing at the rate of Rs.40/- per month for one full month in June.

Females : Re.0-12-0 or 1½ payalees of paddy per day for all operations.

In one case only it is reported that a wage rate of Re.0-8-0 or 1 payalee for harvesting was paid.

2. Non-Agricultural work :

Males : Rs.1-8-0 per day for felling trees, chopping wood, construction labour, and sundry work. A rate of Rs.1-4-0 was reported to be paid for bringing grass and bushes from jungles.

One labourer was hired at Re.0-12-0 per day with meals and was taken to Kasal, 25 miles away for roofing and sundry work for about 4½ months.

Another labourer worked for 35 days on contract basis at Hindale, 1 mile away, where the building for a primary school was being built. He erected the walls.

For females the wage rate is 0-8-0 per day for grinding, (one case reporting 0-12-0 per day) and Re.1/- per day for labour in construction work and work on the silica mines.

A different type of labour is that of weaving leaves of coconut trees at the employer's place. It is paid by piece rate at anna 1 per leaf woven. The person (male) reporting such work gets about 0-6-0 per day on the average.

6.27 Of the total earnings reported for the year 1954 nearly 90% are received in cash. The different type of incomes and their proportions are given below :

Table 6.14 *proportionate distribution of Total Income*

1. Wages earned in cash (Agri. & Non-agri.)	67.99
2. Wages in kind (only agri. labour)	6.94
3. Income from self employment	18.17
4. Cash remittances	4.70
5. Income from land.	2.20
	100.00

6.28 A classification of families according to different

types of work done and the earners in the family is given below :

Table 6.15 *classification of labour families according to earners and type of work done*

Type of family	Type of work						Total
	Only Agri. labour	Agri. & Non-agri. labour	Agri. non-agri. & self employ	Only non-agri. labour	Non-agri. & self employ	Agri. & self employ-ment	
1 Earner Male	4	1	1	-	-	-	2
1 Earner Female	1	2	3	1	-	4	11
2 Earner male & Female	-	2	4	-	1	-	7
3 Earners	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Total	1	5	10	1	1	4	22

6.29 ~~There is no family reporting dependence on self-employment (of the type specified earlier) alone.~~ Though 10 families are engaged in all the 3 categories of work the highest average earnings are received by the 5 families falling in the group of agri. & non-agri labour. The following table gives the average per day earnings for the different combinations of labour. *Table 6.16. Average Earnings per day in different types of labour*

	<u>Per day earning in rupees</u>
1. Only Agri. Labour	.745
2. Agri. & Non-agri. labour	.953
3. Agri., Non-Agri & Self employment	.858
4. Only Non-agri. labour	- (an old woman doing domestic work and generally living on charity).
5. Non-agri. & Self-employment	.608
6. Agri. & Self employment	.541

6.30 Non-agricultural labour fetches the maximum earnings. The following table gives per day earnings for the three

categories individually according to male and female earners.

Table 6.17 Average per person's earnings in different types of labour

<u>Category of work</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Agricultural-labour</u>	<u>Non-Agri. labour</u>	<u>Self-employment</u>
<u>Average earnings per day.</u>				
Per ^{earner} person	0-13-0	0-13-6	1- 2-0	0- 9-3
Per Male	1- 1-0	1- 0-0	1- 5-0	0-13-6
Per female	0-10-0	0-12-0	0-12-3	0- 7-9

6.31 The 22 labour families under study, fall into the following income groups.

Table 6.18 Selected labour families classified 193
income wise.

	<u>No. of families</u>
1. Below 100	3
2. 100 - 200	9
3. 200 - 300	5
4. Above 300 (max. 485)	5
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> 22 <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/>

6.32 Considering employment, it is found that males are more or less equally employed in agri. and non-agricultural work and little less in self employment. Females on the other hand are engaged in self-employment (collection ^{and} sale of grass and fire wood) to the greatest extent, the next in order being agricultural labour and ~~thirdly~~ non-agricultural labour. The table given below gives the % age employment of male & female in different categories of work :

Table 6.19 percentage employment in different categories of work.

Employment	Categories of Work		
	Agri. labour	Non-Agri, labour	Self-employment
Per male	36.42	36.47	27.11
Per female	42.10	9.88	48.02
General	39.74	20.93	39.33

6.33 Agricultural work is available for five months from June to November. As this employment is of an assured nature for the season as such, neither of the other categories of work, namely non-agricultural labour and self employment is allowed to interfere in this. It is also true that both these categories

of work are not available during the rainy season. Nevertheless, it may be noted here that a little self employment of the nature of preparing ropes and brooms is undertaken during the agricultural season.

6.34 Of the 22 families, 12 have reported indebtedness ranging from ^{Rs.}200 to ^{Rs.}50 (one family Rs.600). The average indebtedness ~~per~~ ^{per} reporting family is Rs.164 at the beginning of the year and Rs.197 at the end. The increase is solely due to non-payment of interest. Of the 12 families, six have to pay interest, the loans of the other six being interest free. The interest rates are 72% in the case of 1, 37½% in the case of 3, 18½ % in the case of 1 and only 6% in the case of the remaining 1. Only two families who were already indebted reported raising of fresh loans during the year, to the extent of Rs.275/- (200 & 75). The repayment of principal or interest is almost not done. Only two cases, ^{one} of repayment of interest Rs.10/- and ^{one} of repayment of principal Rs.20/- are reported.

Migration :

6.35 Large movements of labour, in search of employment during the fair weather months have been a regular feature of Mithbav as well, as of the district as a whole. It has been a structural adjustment of a deficit economy, with nearly 60% of the land under dense forests and rocks, low productivity of the soil, lack of industries, growing population and nearness to a rapidly growing urban centre like Bombay.

6.36 The practice of migration is more than 100 years old. The Ratnagiri Gazetteer, 1880, quotes the report of Captain Wingate, the then Survey Superintendent of the Bombay Presidency, submitted in 1851, as saying; "Though industrious and hardworking the women and even the children sharing in the most toil^{some} field labour, they failed to grow grain enough ^{for} ~~from~~ their support. Large numbers left the district in search of work. Brahmins, as civil officers and clerks, and Marathas and Mhars in the police and army, received in pay and pension, a sum nearly as large as the whole district revenue. Besides this, an even larger sum was brought back yearly by the crowd of labourers who, starting for Bombay and the districts round at the beginning of the fair weather (November), came back with their savings before the burst of the rains. (June). In this way, without the help of manufacture, the district paid for its imports of grain" (pp.242).

6.37 The general family schedule of the present Survey returned 696 families of the total of 1130 families, or 61.6% reporting relatives employed outside Mithbav, principally at Bombay.

6.38 The following table gives the number of families

- 1 -

reporting relatives outside Mithbav, from the total number of families, classified income wise. *relative outside village*

Table 6.20 *Income wise classification of families reporting*

<u>Income Groups</u>	<u>Total No. of families in village</u>	<u>Of which reporting relatives outside village</u>	
Upto 500	903	533	59
500 - 1000	166	125	7
1000 - 1500	36	19	53
1500 - 2000	8	8	100
2000 - 2500	7	4	57
Above 2500	4	2	50
.Blank	6	5	83
Total -	<u>1130</u>	<u>696</u>	62

It may be remembered here that the total income reported includes remittances. The table brings out the magnitude of migration in different income-groups.

6.39 The following table classified caste-wise gives the number of persons, including females and children related to the parent family and resident outside Mithbav. These constitute the direct relations of the parent families at Mithbav, namely fathers, husbands, and sons, and those of others, such as nephews and brothers, on whom the parent family depends for economic assistance.

6.40 No record could be had about ~~these~~ families, ~~that~~ *which* have left Mithbav for Bombay or some other places, during the last 60 years. It was reported that those who have abandoned social and economic contact with the parent families, have settled mainly in Bombay. No count of these is, however, possible.

Table 6.21. Caste-wise classification of Relatives staying outside and earners status 1 - 197

Castes	No. of families in xi villa- ges.	No. of families report- ing mi- gration	Total No. of persons outside village	Of which earners	No. of females	No. of Chil- dren	No. of educa- tion	No. of un- employ ed per- sons	No. of non- coming depend ent males
Brahmins	30	23	129	41 ⁺	31	32	5+19	1	19
Vaishyas	8	5	7	5	2	-	-	-	-
Marathas	556	363	1100	489+12	213	283	25+79	12	79
Ehandaris	196	139	535	203+5	110	186	7+24	5	24
Gabits	250	125	296	153+7	42	74	9+11	7	11
Sutars	12	4	11	4	3	4	-	-	-
Koshii	1	1	6	1	2	3	-	-	-
Sonar	11	9	29	8+1	4	13	1+2	1	2
Parit	8	3	7	3	2	2	-	-	-
Devli	4	3	32	10	7	13	-	-	-
Teli	3	2	11	4	3	4	-	-	-
Mhar	47	19	38	17+1	12	6	3	1	-
Total	1126	696	2201 ✓	938 298 ²⁷ 64°	431	620	50	27	135 27 162

The proportion of Brahmin families reporting migration is the highest with 77% of the total. Among the remaining major caste-groups, the Ehandaris come next with nearly 71%, the Marathas, with 65%, Gabits with 50% and the Mhars with 40% of the total No. of families at Mithbav reporting migration.

6.41 For purposes of analysis regarding ~~the~~ education, earning and practice of remittances and visiting, 906 out of 938 ^{constituting first & second earners} are classified below [^] earners were studied. It may be assumed that the remaining confirm to the general trends regarding the above.

6.42 The table below gives the educational qualifications of the above earners.

<u>Educational Qualification</u>	<u>No. of Earners</u>
Illiterate	134
Literate	6
Upto 4th Vernacular	101
Upto Vernacular Final	611
Upto 3rd English	3
Matriculation or S.S.C.	26
Intermediate	6
Graduates	6
Technical degree or diploma	2
Blank	11
Total -	906

6.43 The earnings of the above are grouped below along-with

those of the parent families at Mithbav for the sake of comparison.

Table 6.23 Classification according to incomes of Families at Mithbav

<u>Groups of Incomes</u>	<u>Families at Mithbav</u> <i>Reporting Migration</i>	<u>% age to the total</u>	<u>Earners outside Mithbav</u>	<u>% age to the total</u> <i>reporting migration and earners migrants out side.</i>
0-500	533	76.6	45	4.9
500-1000	125	18.0	419	46.3
1000-1500	19	2.7	284	31.4
1500-2000	8	1.1	38	4.2
2000-2500	4	.6	11	1.2
Above 2500	2	.3	5	.5
Blank	5	.7	104	11.5
<u>Total</u>	696	100.0	906	100.0

Whereas more than $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the ^{total number} ~~no.~~ of reporting ^{parent,} families fall within the first income group, the ~~no.~~ ^{number} of earners in that group is about 5% only. The table brings out the shift in the incomes earned, principally at Bombay as compared to those earned by the parent families at Mithbav.

6.44 The following table gives the practice of remittances. In addition to the level of incomes earned at Bombay, the practice

is closely related to the number of dependents and cost of living in the city. The table, therefore, classifies the earners according to civil status. The table also reveals the dependence of the parent families on the earners at Bombay.

Table 6.24. Remittance practice and civil status of corner-migrants

Civil status of earners	Regular Remittances	% age to group total	Irregular Remittances	% age to group total	Not remitting	% age to group total	Total	% age to total
1. Unmarried	89	40.4	31	14.1	100	45.5	220	24.3
2. Married with wife at Mithbav	271	81.6	17	5.1	44	13.3	332	36.6
3. Married with wife along with	112	37.5	53	17.7	134	44.8	299	33.1
4. Widowers	9	19.5	17	36.9	20	43.6	46	5.0
Blank	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1.0
Total	481	53.1	118	13.0	298	32.9	906	100.0

The table significantly brings out the fact that nearly 37% of the earners have left their families at Mithbav, about 82% of these, sending regular remittances. Among the other three categories, 40% of unmarried earners, 37.5% of earners with their wives and children staying with them at Bombay and 19% of the widowers, send regular remittances. The dependence of the parent families on their relatives is ^{obvious} ~~apparent~~.

6.45 Irregular remittances are those remittances not sent regularly per month, but those ~~that are~~ sent as and when the need arises or ^{when} the migrant visits the native place. 118 earners sent such remittances, ~~the number of married earners with families at Bombay, being the largest among these~~

6.46 Remittances are received in two ways, namely by money orders and insurance envelopes. Amounts received by money orders can be ascertained from the post office whereas those sent through insurance envelopes cannot be ascertained. The proportion of the latter to total remittances sent was, however, placed, by village reports, at 10% to 15% of the total. The third method by which monies are received is the actual sums brought by visiting migrants or sent with them by others. The magnitude of this cannot be ascertained. It is estimated that the proportion of monies brought to Mithbav lies between 10% to 20% of the total.

6.47 The total remittances received by money orders amounted to Rs.120,000 whereas the reported remittances amounted to Rs.1,25,000 leaving a difference of about 5000 rupees. As mentioned above, about 10% are sent by way insurance envelopes. If this is included in the actual sum of remittances, an under-reporting of Rs.7000 or about 5.3% emerges. The total under-reporting can be placed, if the third method of receipts of money is taken into account, between 20% and 25% of the total. ~~The proportions given in the tables below are worked out from the total of remittances reported in the general family schedules.~~

6.48 The table given below, shows month-wise distribution of remittances received by the village. The proportions are to the total of remittances actually received through the post office by way of money orders.

Table 6.25 Month-wise distribution of remittances

June 1954	8.07	Dec. 1954	8.62
July "	10.45	Jan. 1955	8.34
Aug. "	10.49	Feb. "	7.48
Sept. "	8.16	Mar. "	7.59
Oct. "	8.17	Apr. "	6.77
Nov. "	8.27	May "	7.59
			<u>100.00</u>

The table brings out the regularity of the size of remittances and also denotes the months, when greater remittances are sent. In particular the months of July and August record a bigger size of total remittances; the reason being that the months coincide with the sowing season as well the Ganapati Festival which is the most important religious celebration of the village.

6.49 On the average, the total remittances reported amount to 41% of the total incomes reported by receiving families. Over the total, this average works out to 28% of the total incomes reported by all the families. This may be taken as an indication of the overall dependence of the village on remittances, within the above mentioned under-reporting.

6.50 599 out of the 906 migrant earners, ^{studied,} were reported to be sending remittances; ^{of these the remittance figures of six were not reported} The following table gives the actual total remittances within each size of remittance, the number of earners sending these remittances, the proportion of remittance sent by each group as well as the average remittance per earner within each group. ^{Table 6.26 Remittance per earner migrant and proportion to total.}

<u>Size of Remittances</u>	<u>Total received</u>	<u>%age to total</u>	<u>No. of earners</u>	<u>%age to total</u>	<u>Average remittance per earner</u>
10 to 100	9160	7-7.37	161	20 17.76	27.15 56.89
101 to 200	28790	23-23.20	176	30 19.42	29.68 163.57
201 to 300	40230	33-32.41	151	35 16.66	25.46 266.42
301 to 400	22050	18-17.77	61	10 6.73	10.29 361.47
401 to 500	14070	11-11.33	29	5 3.20	4.89 485.17
501 to 600	7150	6 5.76	12	3 1.32	2.02 595.83
601 to 700	-	-	-	-	-
701 to 800	720	.58	1	.11	.17 720.00
801 to 900	-	-	-	-	-
901 to 1000	1960	1.58	2	.22	.34 980.00
			593		107.00

Along with giving the average size of remittance in each group, the table brings out the character of remittances

also. Thus the first group with 17.76 earners sends only 7.37% of the remittances. In the next 3 groups the proportion increases, the proportion of remittances to the proportion of earners in the third group nearly doubling. The three groups sending remittances between Rs.101 to 400 form 42.8% of the total earners and send 73.38 of the total remittances. The average size of remittances amounts to Rs.209 per annum or about 17 rupees per month.

6.51 Of the total remittances received nearly 94% were reported to be sent regularly. The following table gives the

proportion of the regular remittance sent by earners, classified according to circumstances of the earners. *earner-migrants circumstances of*

Table 6.27 proportion of Remittances according to Family

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>Proportion to total regular remittance</u>
Unmarried persons	16.82
Married, wife staying at Mithbav	64.35
Married, wife at Bombay	16.28
Widowers	2.55
	100.00

6.52 The table given below classifies the earners according to the period of migration. The actual ^{number} ~~no.~~ of years since migration are near approximations _{and are taken} as reported by the head of the family at Mithbav. The table however gives a general trend

and the proportions. The table does not bring out any rate of migration as the number of those who have left Mithbav permanently and their rate of migration could not be ascertained. Similarly the number of those returning to the village after retirement and their rate return are not ascertainable. The table thus concerns itself with the living migrants who have maintained contact with the village economically and ~~the~~ socially.

<u>Period</u>	<u>No. of earners</u>	<u>Proportion to total</u>
1953-54	45	23.07
1952-53	51	26.16
1951-52	59	30.26
1950-51	40	20.51

1950 to 1954 (total)	195	21 21.53
10 years (since 1945-50)	295	33 32.57
15 years (since 1940-45)	172	19 18.98
20 years (since 1935-40)	84	9 9.27
More than 20 years	150	17 16.55
Non-response	10	1 1.10
Total	906	100.00

Those who migrated since 20 years and more form a composite group, not comparable with the quinquennial migration figures from 1940 and after. The table shows that more than double the number of migrants left Mithav between 1940-45 than in 1935-40. This increase was ^{presumably} occasioned by the commencement of the Second World War. ^{and 1950} Between 1945 ~~to 50~~, the number of migrants shows a still higher increase, nearly 1/3rd of the total, having migrated to Bombay during the 5 years. The Second World War had ended but the expectations of migrating persons, presumably continued to remain high. It is also possible that a significant proportion of these, had to leave the village in search of a job, as the prices still rose and real incomes fell. Since 1950 however, the number of migrants appears to have settled to a steady proportion, within slight annual variations.

6.53 The table below classifies the migrants according to place. It can be seen that more than 85% have migrated to Bombay, 13% to places within the Marathi speaking area, and about .5 outside the linguistic region.

Table 6.29. places of migration

<u>Place</u>	<u>No. of migrants</u>	<u>% age</u>
Bombay	772	85.5
Same linguistic area	121	13.0
Outside the linguistic region	5	.6
Non-response cases	8	.9
Total	906	100.0

6.54 The practice of visiting is given in the following table. The relevant questions in the general family schedule inquired whether the person ^{had} visited the village during the previous year and whether he visits it regularly. Positive answers for both, have been interpreted as practice of regular visits; negative answers for both, as not visiting the village at all; and any intermediary position, a positive and a negative and vice versa, has been interpreted as irregular visiting practice.

Table 6.30 Practice of visiting the native village

<u>Practice of visiting</u>	<u>No. of Persons</u>	<u>% age to total</u>
1. Regular	262	28.9
2. Irregular	381	42.1
3. Not-visiting	255	28.1
Non-response	8	.9
	906	100.00

71% of the migrant-earners were reported to be visiting the village, 29% regularly and 42% irregularly, once in 2 or 3 years. 28% were reported to be not visiting the village at all.

6.55 A further analysis of the ~~the~~ last group shows that, about 70% of these are married and have their wives along with them. The proportion of the non-visiting migrants to total migrants, periodwise classified shows that it generally conforms

to the average of 28% with slight annual variations. The table is given below: *Table 6.31 Periodwise classification of non-visiting migrants*

<u>Period</u>	<u>Total No. of migrants</u>	<u>Non-visiting migrants</u>	<u>Proportion to total in each category</u>
1950-54	195	66	33.8
1945-50	295	70	23.7
1940-45	172	47	27.3
1935-40	84	27	32.1
20 Years & more	150	43	28.7
Non-response	10	2	
Total	906	255	28.1

6.56 These reported non-visiting migrants, however, maintain a certain economic contact with the ancestral family in the village. The remittances sent by these amount to 13% of the total remittances received by the village.

6.57 In order to obtain information as to the age and method of migration, type of employment secured at Bombay and certain other details, a separate schedule was introduced in the village. The schedules were filled by direct questioning of migrants visiting Mithav. No sampling could be done as these visits depended upon the convenience and will of the migrants. ~~A total~~ 45 schedules were filled during the survey year. The data ~~is~~ are presented below and may be interpreted as indicating general trends.

6.58 Table below gives the family occupations of the 45 migrants. : *Table 6.32 Family occupation of migrants*

Agriculture	28
Fishing	7
Salaried service	4
Labour	4
Carting	1
Unspecified	1

6.59 The following table gives the occupation of the migrants before leaving the village. It may be seen that

nearly 50% left during schooling itself;

Table 6.33 *occupation of migrants before leaving village*

Too young	2	Service	2
Education	21	Labour	3
Agriculture	13	Carting	1
Fishing	3		<u>45</u>

6.60 A classification (given below) of age shows that migration was maximum between the ages 16 and 20.

Table 6.34 *Age of leaving the village*

<u>Age groups</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Age groups</u>	<u>Number</u>
(age at the time of migration)			
1-5	1	21-25	8
6-10	3	26-30	2
11-15	5	31-35	-
16-20	25	36-40	1
			<u>45</u>

6.61 Of the 45 migrants, only 7 left the village without any company and without any certainty of employment. Of the remaining 38, all of whom left village with acquaintances 10 were certain of getting a job; the persons with whom they migrated having given assurances to that effect. The remaining 28 were accompanied persons who were in a position to lodge them until they found work or try for them.

6.62 The following table gives the classification of persons reporting intermittent and initial unemployment as related to the above circumstances of migration.

Table 6.35 Circumstances of migration and reported unemployment

	<u>Total No.</u> <u>of</u> <u>Migrants</u>	<u>Reporting</u> <u>initial</u> <u>unemployment</u>	<u>Reporting</u> <u>intermittant</u> <u>unemployment</u>
1. With company and certainty of employment	10	-	3
2. With company but without certainty of employment	28	6	9
3. Without company and without certainty of employment	7	1	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>

6.63 37 of the above 45 ^{are} were married persons; the remaining 8, unmarried. Of the married 27 kept their wives and children

at Mithbav for reasons given below :

Table 6-36 Reasons for keeping wife in the native village

No accomodation	15
For family occupation (agriculture)	4
Not possible economically	2
House hold work	1
Type of husbands work (labour in country craft)	1
Unspecified	4

27

6.64 The table given below gives the classification of the occupation of the migrants according to the occupation of the parent family in the village.

Table 6.37 Occupation of migrants classified according to occupation of parent family in the village

Occupation of migrants	Family occupation						Total
	Agri-culture	Fishing	Sala-ried service	Labour	Carting	Unspe-cified	
Educational service	2	-	2	-	-	-	4
Independent Business	1 (Seasonal trade)	-	-	1 (Tailoring)	-	-	2
Textile Mills	22	-	1	1	1	1	26
Port-trust & Shipping	-	4	1	-	-	-	5
Printing Press	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Clerks	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peons	1	2	-	2	-	-	5
Bus conductor	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<u>Total</u>	28	7	4	4	1	1	45

It appears from the table that a majority of the textile labour, 22 out of 26, is drawn from the agricultural classes, namely the Marathas and the Bhandaris. 4 of the 7 ^{allied} belonging to the fishing occupation are employed in services ~~allied to shipping~~ namely shipping and dock labour, which is mainly due to their ability to withstand movements in water. The third noticeable point is that out of the 4 belonging to the salaried service group, 2 have become teachers i.e. have continued the family occupation.

6.65 The table below gives the classification of incomes according to the occupations of the migrants :

Income Groups of migrants	Occupations								Total
	Educa- tional service	Inde- pen- dent busi- ness	Tex- tile Mills	Port- trust & shi- pping	Prin- ting	Clerks	Peons	Bus con- duc- tors	
Below 500	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
500 to 1000	-	1	-	2	-	-	3	-	6
1000 to 1500	2	-	21	2	1	-	2	1	29
1500 to 2000	1	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	6
2000 to 2500	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
2500 to 3000	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>Total</u>	4	2	26	5	1	1	5	1	45

The classification shows a concentration in the 1000-1500 groups, with as many as 29 out of 45. Incomes above this group appear to be in employments in educational service, clerical jobs and textile mills. Those in other occupations either fall in the modal group or below. Earnings of peons and shipping labour fall in the 500-1000 range. The only person earning less than 5000, was engaged in tailoring.

6.66 39 out of the 45 migrants reported that it was not economically possible for them to return to the village. Of the 6 who were thinking of returning to the village, 4 wanted to return on grounds of health; one to take up the family occupation of agriculture and one because of retirement from service.

6.67 Regarding the effects of the visits of these migrants, only 4 reported having taken 14 persons to Bombay for the purpose of finding employment for them. They used their influence in getting them training and employment.

6.68 12 out of the 45 reported that people approached them with inquiries as to the availability of employment in Bombay. ^{//} ~~He~~ advised the inquirers not to go to Bombay as vacancies did not exist. Only one agreed to take a neighbour to Bombay and try to get a job for him. Two of the above 10 gave the reasons for scarcity of direct jobs namely that at present recruitment was done only through employment exchanges.

Chapter - VIITrade and TransportThe Background :

7.1 The village Mithbav, presumably got its name from the marathi words 'Mith' meaning salt and 'Bav' meaning a well or a low-lying area. It was reported that the village used to produce salt on an extensive scale. The Marathas who were mainly engaged in this occupation used to take the salt to places like Kolhapur and Nipani beyond the Ghats on the backs of bullocks. On their way back they brought cereals like Nachani, Vari and paddy for sale in the village.

7.2 About 80 years ago the production of salt was discarded subsequent to the levy of a tax by the Government and a provision by which a permission to produce salt was to be procured. It was reported that all the salt pans were destroyed by the owners as a result of this tax which rendered the occupation unprofitable.

7.3 Trading, however, remained in the hands of the above people who owned the main transport equipment namely rack-bullocks. Till about 1905, it was these bullock-owners who monopolised all exports of coconuts and coir articles and imports of much required cereals. As salt production ceased, the field of their activity also became limited. They used to go up to the Ghats, selling the coconuts and coir articles to interior villages on a retail basis. The transactions were mainly done in cash, though a certain barter system was practised. It was reported that carrier-bullocks numbered about 200 to 250 by about 1905.

7.4 This system of transport and trade was replaced by bullock-carts from that period onwards. A number of bullock-owners purchased carts, some dropping the occupation altogether on account of old^y age and losses. A small batch however, continued to pursue the bullock-carrier trade. It was reported that by 1940 there were still about 6 persons owning 25 bullocks. With the commencement of the War, the carrier traffic ^{completely} gradually stopped.

7.5 Beginning with 1905, the traffic and trade of Mithbav was taken over by bullock-carts till 1930, the period of the Great Depression. It was reported that Mithbav had about 150 bullock-carts in 1918, the apparent reason being the prosperity brought about by the 1st World War. The carters used to take coconuts, coir articles, kokam etc. to Kolhapur and Nipani, two big market centres above the Ghats. Part of the merchandise was sold on way according to demand. On their return trip they brought various types of goods such as rice, nachani, wari, jowar, bajri, gul, tobacco and onions, which were also sold during the transit in villages on way. A major portion was brought to Mithbav. The Mithbav weekly-market, in addition to local traders, largely constituted these cartmen, selling above goods. In about 1930, it was reported that about a hundred cart-shops attended the weekly-market.

7.6 The number of carts decreased from 1930 onwards, firstly because of the impact of falling prices and trade due to depression and secondly due to increased trading activity in the village itself.

7.7 Trading by carters decreased significantly after 1930,

during which period they began transporting on a greater scale instead of selling. They received lower prices for the goods they sold in other villages and the goods they purchased for selling at Mithbav fetched still lower prices. Their capital was also limited. The number of carts decreased to about 70 or 80 in 1940. Another major reason for their diminishing importance was that mechanised transport had begun since early '30's on a ~~more and more~~^{an} increased scale. Even so, it was reported that in 1940 the weekly market was attended by about 50 cartmen-traders, half the number selling rice.

7.8 The number of carts at Mithbav diminish^{ed}~~ing~~ rapidly thereafter, with a spurt in carrier-activity during the Second World War. The present survey reports only 23 persons carrying on carting,⁴ as main occupation and 19 as subsidiary occupation. 5 carters reported some trading on their own. They take coconuts for sale on way to ^FPhonda and surrounding interior villages and bring back rice, jowar and bajri. They generally sell these commodities to residents of their wadis on a retail basis. It was reported that a majority of carters who gave up carting migrated to Bombay in search of service, the remaining sticking to the family occupation of agriculture.

7.9 The weekly market at Mithbav was established in 1902. It used to assemble near the temple of Rameshwar, the village deity, for about 6 months. It was later shifted to the present spot.

7.10 Prior to the establishment of the market, there were 3 traders at Mithbav. Two of them were Vaishyas by caste, and one Maratha. One of the Vaishya traders, had his shop in

Bhandarwada for a period of about eighty years. He closed his shop by about this time. The other trader had his shop in Vaghoba Wadd for about twenty years. He shifted his shop to the market place at the time of establishment. The Maratha trader's shop was situated in Kond, where it ran for 25 years till 1914.

7.11 Between 1902 to 1914, there were seven traders at the market place, including the above Vaishya and Maratha traders. Of the remaining five one was Brahmin, 2 Vaishyas, 1 Maratha and one Shimpi by caste. It was reported that the main occupation of the above traders was agriculture. The shops were opened mainly to establish the market.

7.12 Two of the above shops were closed by 1920. Another two were closed by the middle of the 20's. The reason generally advanced for failure was that each of the above shops had accumulated heavy credit dues, which they could not recover. By the beginning of the 30's there were only three shops, one belonging to the Brahmin and the other two to the Vaishyas.

7.13 During the decade 1930-40, there were two additions. A Vaishya dealer started a shop in about 1936 but had to close it by 1940. The significant addition was that of a Gabit trader, who opened his shop in Tambaldeg, the coastal locality of the village inhabited by Gabits.

7.14 During the next decade, the 40's, these four, the earlier Brahmin, two Vaishyas and the Gabit continued to trade. In 1942, a new shop was opened in Vaghoba Wadi by a Vaishya trader. It was reported that these five traders had to make

great efforts to keep their shops running as all trading in cereals, sugar, kerosene and cloth was taken over by rationshops run by the two cooperative societies in the village. Towards the end of the decade, sometime in 1948, another Vaishya, a relative of one of the original traders opened a shop in Harabachi wadi. Though working at the time of survey, it was on the point of going into liquidation.

7.15 Since 1950, there have been three additions and one failure. Of these one Vaishya opened his shop in the market place in 1951, the remaining two being opened during the year prior to the survey. One of these is a Vaishya having his shop in Ehandar wada and the other, a Gabit with his shop at Tambaldeg. The shop closed in 1952 belonged to one of the original Vaishya traders. The shop was wound up because of the old age of the owner and the refusal of his children to take to trading. Incidentally, it may be mentioned here that this trader belongs to the village of Hindale, across the river.

7.16 All the above traders were mainly grocers, dealing in goods and commodities of day-to-day requirement. Since 1950, there has been an addition of four more shops of a specialised nature. These shops sell stationery and toilet articles. One of these is a book shop, two others keep some varieties of cloth, and one exclusively deals in stationery and fancy articles. The two cloth dealers are Bhandari by caste ^{and} the other two belonging to the Maratha caste.

7.17 Till about 1923, there was no established tea shop at Mithoav. It was reported that 2 shopkeepers both Maratha

- 12 -

by caste, ran temporary tea-shops from 1910 onwards. These shops, however, ran for 5 to 10 years and were closed. Between 1923-1925, two ^{new} tea shops were opened, both by Marathas. The shops are still running but under different owners.

7.18 Two new tea shops which were also started within 2 years after the above were closed by 1930; i.e. the beginning of the depression. It was reported that barring the two, started between 1923 to 1925, there were no new additions during the decade 1930-1940. The reason for this slack activity was apparently the falling prices and income subsequent to the depression. It may also be presumed that a couple of tea shops might have been opened and closed after a year or two, towards the end of the decade but were not reported. It may be mentioned here, that ^{even} some of the present tea-shops are also housed in temporary shacks and require less than a hundred rupees as capital. It was observed that such tea shops were started mainly in order to have some sort of ^a subsidiary occupation during the winter and summer months.

7.19 From 1942 onwards there appears to be a sudden increase in the number of tea shops at Mithbav. Between 1942 and 1945, 5 tea shops were opened of which 2 were by Marathas, 2 by Bhandaris and one by a Brahmin. The Second World War was well-advanced by 1942-43, and had brought increased employment high prices and high incomes. The increase in the number of tea shops apparently reflects this prosperity.

After 1950, three fresh tea shops have been opened, all three by Marathas.

7.20 Mention has already been made of two stationery shops of recent origin also selling cloth at present. Trading in cloth was never independently done at Mithbav due to two reasons. It was reported that residents have been migrating to Bombay for work in textile mills since the last 50 to 60 years. These persons brought their family requirements of cloth along with them, when they returned to the village for their family occupation of agriculture. Secondly the climate of the village, wet during ~~the~~ monsoons and humid during summer due to nearness of sea, prevented the inhabitants from wearing clothes. It was ~~also~~ reported that poverty was also a reason for the exceptionally small purchases. ^{of} ~~in~~ cloth, in the village also

7.21 After the establishment of the market in 1902, Mithbav was ^{regularly} visited by two Christian cloth sellers, who brought their goods from Malvan on their heads. They, however, ceased to come by about 1914. It is presumed that some grocers also kept a few varieties of cloth for sale during that and ~~the~~ subsequent period. It was reported that one Bhandari trader ran a cloth shop from 1925 to 1930 and closed it there-after. From 1925 onwards one of the earlier Vaishya grocers, who still continues to do business, kept cloth for sale for a period of 20 years till 1945-46. The present two shops selling cloth jointly with other goods, as also two tailors who keep cloth for sale, were opened ^{after} ~~since~~ 1950. During the intervening period between 1946 to 1950, it may be presumed that some visiting sellers from Malvan, Devgad or Fonda, might have supplied the requirements of cloth to the village.

7.22 Mithbav had one tailor, belonging to the Shimpi caste at the time of the establishment of the market. In 1902 a Brahmin also brought a sewing machine, and did business for about 3 years. The former Shimpi tailor closed his shop by about 1908 after running it for a period of 10 years. By 1905 one of the grocers, a Shimpi by caste, started a tailoring section in his shop. This shop continued till about 1940, after being transferred by the grocer-tailor to his son-in-law in 10-12 years' time. In 1930 there were two additions, both shimpis by caste, one of them being a brother of the above-mentioned son-in-law. Both these shops did business for a period of 10 to 15 years.

7.23 Towards the end of the decade of 30's^{ce} by about 1938-39, two tailors, both Gabits (~~fishermen~~) by caste started their shop, one in the market place and the other at Tambaldeg the fishermen locality. The latter had closed his business at the time of the survey, on grounds of health, after doing business for about 16 years. The other Gabit tailor is still doing business and has also begun selling cloth and stationery articles side by side.

7.24 During the 40's, 4 more tailors started their occupation at Mithbav. Of these two were Gabits, one of whom opened his shop in 1940-41, the other at the close of the decade, in 1949-50. The other two belonged to the Maratha caste, starting their shops a little earlier in 1947-48.

7.25 In 1950 two more ^{tailors} shops were added to the existing six tailors. These belonged to the Bhandari and Maratha castes.

There were, at the time of the survey, seven tailors in all of whom 3 were Gabits, 3 Marathas and 1 Bhandari.

7.26 There were two families, both belonging to the Teli caste at Mithbav from the beginning of the century. It was reported that together they used to satisfy the requirements *of oil pressing* of the village. Both had wooden oil presses, Ghanas, and pressed oil for the customers, partly in cash and partly for kind payments. They did not accept Baluta, the system of customary payments. Both mills stopped functioning by about 1930, due to deaths of the heads of the families. Their children did not continue the family occupation.

7.27 The village since then had to depend, for its requirements of oil, partly on oil imported by traders and partly on oil pressed by oil-Ghanas at Hindale. By the time of the survey, almost all persons were buying oil in the market except a few, who took home-made copra to Hindale and got it pressed.

7.28 An attempt, however, was made by a Teli family, to start an oil press at Mithbav in 1950. The village records mention the existence of one oil-Ghana in that year. It was however, reported that the Ghana ran for a period of 3 to 4 months only. The head of the family died and the family, which had migrated to Mithbav from a village called Munage, 7 miles to south of Mithbav, went back.

7.29 The table charts the history of trading and transport activities ~~and~~ since the inception of the weekly market.

Chart showing the growth of trading activity during
the 50 years from 1902 to 1954-55

<u>Occupations</u>	<u>Prior to 1902</u>	<u>1902 to 1929</u>	<u>1930 to 1939</u>	<u>1940 to 1949</u>	<u>1949 to 1954</u>
		1902 Establishment of the market.			
Transport & Commerce	Carrier Trade by bullocks numbering 250	1905 Beginning of transport and trade by bullock carts. 150 bullock carts by 1929.	80 bullock Carts by 1939. Beginning of mechanised transport. Stoppage of Trade	About 40 bullock carts. Increase in truck transport.	23 bullock carts in 1954-55.
Trading in the village	Vani Vani Maratha	Closed in 1905 Closed in 1924 Closed in 1920 Shimpi closed 1924 Maratha " 1920	Brahmin New " Vani " Vani Vani...Closed 1939 Gabit..New 1937	Brahmin Vani Vani Gabit Vani - New Shop Vani - New Shop	Brahmin Closed in 1952 Vani Gabit Vani Vani Vani New Shop in 1951 Vani " " in 1953 Gabit " " in 1953
Tea Shops	2 Seasonal shops by Marathas	2 Seasonal shops: closed 1929 1 Maratha New Shop in 1923 1 " " " 1925	Seasonal shops Closed '37+38 Maratha 1925 Maratha	Maratha - old shop Maratha - old shop Maratha - New Shop 1945 Maratha " " Bhandari " " Bhandari " " Brahmin " "	3 tea shops by Marathas in addition to the existing 7 shops.
Cloth selling	2 Itinerent Christian traders.	2 Itinerent Christian traders - discontinued by 1914 Bhandari cloth shop (1925-30) Vani grocer kept cloth from 1925	Vani grocer kept cloth Itinerent traders from Fonda and Malvan	Vani grocer - stopped cloth in 1945 2 Ration shops of Coop. societies.	2 Bhandari shops new - selling cloth, stationery and toilet articles. 3 Tailors begin selling cloth as a side line.
Tailoring	1 Shimpi	Shimpi closed in 1908 Brahmin (1902 to 1905) Shimpi grocer began tailoring also.	Shimpi - old shop Shimpi: New shop 1930 Shimpi New shop 1930 Gabit new shop 1938 Gabit new shop 1938	All the Shimpi Tailors closed. 2 Gabit shops - old 2 Gabit shops - new 1940 and 1949 2 Maratha shops - new 1948.	1 Old Gabit tailor closed 1 Bhandari and 1 Maratha tailor - new shops in addition to 5 existing shops.

Trading at Mithbav :

7.30 Trading at Mithbav, is confined to a class of traders, drawn principally from the Vaishya or Vani community. As mentioned earlier, the tract is not able to produce ~~the~~ adequate requirements of cereals, ^{for} ~~required by~~ the village. Cultivation is undertaken for domestic consumption only. No surplus is available either for export out of the village or for internal sale. Wholesale sale or purchase of rice is therefore totally absent at Mithbav. Of the 25 owner cultivators selected from a stratified sample for special study only one reported a bulk sale of 10 maunds of paddy in the village. The circumstances of this sale reveal that the cultivator is an old man without any family and ~~that he~~ had to sell nearly half of his produce for raising money to visit Bombay. The case is purely 'an exception'.

7.31 Two grocers, essentially retailers, however, reported some wholesaling, one of them to retailers, belonging to ^{Hindale, the village to the south of Mithbav, across the ferry.} The Hindale dealers also make their purchase at Fonda and Devgad like those at Mithbav. It was only occasionally that they purchased small quantities of provisions for resale, whenever their stocks were low. The two grocers of Mithbav reported that the transactions were limited to one or two bags of rice or jowar at a time, two or three times a year. The other grocer reported similar sales to a retailer in Tambaldeg, a locality of the village itself. The total sales of a wholesale nature amounted to less than 500 rupees a year. The selling retailers insist on the account being settled within a period of 15 days. All dealers at Mithbav are retailers and, with

the above exception, make their wholesale purchases at Devgad Fonda and Kolhapur for grocery articles and at Bombay for stationery and medicinal goods.

7.32 The character and level of incomes of the village have been responsible for the evolution of the retail market. The level of incomes is a result of a number of factors such as the fragmentation of land, low productivity of the soil, scarcity of employment locally and migration. The incomes are of composite nature. They include returns ^{from} ~~for~~ agriculture, earnings from small occupations like rope making, selling coconuts, selling dry grass and fire wood from the jungles, selling fish and finally cash remittances received regularly from relatives employed at Bombay. In a large number of cases, these relatives have an establishment at Bombay also. The amounts sent by them are therefore small and are meant for either expenses of cultivation or for minimum requirements of provisions like kerosene, chillies & condiments, tea and tobacco etc. which have to be purchased for cash. A part of the cereal requirements, i.e. rice, is provided by the family plot. The average remittance per family reporting such remittances, is Rs. 239^{5 per year} or about Rs. 4/- per head per month.

~~The table below gives a classification of families according to income groups.~~

<u>Income groups</u>	<u>No. of families</u>	<u>%age distribution</u>
51-550	897	79.38
551-1050	164	14.51
1051-1550	35	3.09
1551-2050	8	.72
2051-2550	7	.62
2551 & above	4	.35
N.R.	15	1.33
Total	1130	100.00

7.33 Nearly 80 percent of the families fall within the first income group within an annual income of Rs.500/-. A further breakdown of these families into different income groups, given below, shows that more than 50% of these earn less than 200 rupees annually.

Table 7.2 Breakdown of families reporting income below Rs 500/

<u>Incomes below</u>	<u>No. of families</u>	<u>% age distribution</u>
100	161	17.95
200	303	33.77
300	198	22.07
400	155	17.29
500	80	8.92
Total -	897	100.00

7.34 The demand at Mithbav is not restricted to the central market place but is dispersed over space and to a certain extent/over time also. The village is divided into localities called wadas, the remotest being more than two miles from the market place. The low income levels have reduced

consumption to a few commodities like rice and jowar, fish, tobacco and kerosene. Commodities like rice, partly supplied by the family plot and jowar are purchased at the weekly market instead of the local shop in the localities as the weekly market provides the possibility of purchasing different types of requirements like vegetables, dry fish, spices etc. at one place. The local shops provide spot requirements i.e. requirements urgently needed at a particular time and place, at a slightly higher price and obviate the necessity of going to the regular market place which is often more than a mile or two away. These shops also supply the mid-week requirements of kerosene, tea, ~~and~~ tobacco and spices.

7.35 The buying practices at Mithbav are also characteristic of an economy with low-income levels and a large dependence of the population on cash remittances from Bombay. Stocking of provisions for a whole month is rarely done, ^{except during the months.} Purchases are made only when the need is felt urgently. Another characteristic of the buying practices is that it is done on credit to the extent of 40% of the total turnover according to one of the bigger grocery dealers. Purchasing on credit becomes indispensable where ~~the~~ ^{significant} dependence on salaried incomes and consequent remittances is large. About 47% of the total number of families have reported receipt of cash remittances. The above grocer reported that ^{on} ~~at~~ a conservative estimate about 50% of the total number of families were buying on credit.

7.36 A third characteristic of the buying practices is that a number of articles such as cloth, shoes, medicines and other articles of toilet and stationery are purchased ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ

nearly towns and cities through persons visiting these places. It is common practice that whenever a person leaves for the taluka place of Devgad or market places like Fonda or Kolhapur, he is requested to get some of the above mentioned articles from these places. The articles are of a type that are either not available at Mithbav or could be got at a cheaper rate or could be selected according to choice from a wider variety at the bigger market places.

7.37 In addition to the above diversion of a part of demand, another significant part is curtailed at the source by ~~the~~ purchases which are made at Bombay by persons coming to Mithbav to visit their relatives and children. They invariably bring with them a variety of articles like cloth, stoves and lanterns, medicines, books and stationery, sweets, combs, mirrors and other toilet and fancy articles. It should be separately mentioned that the requirements of cloth are purchased at Bombay to a very large extent as a large number of those working at Bombay are textile labourers who can get cloth at a cheaper rate at the mill-shops. Generally the articles ~~that are~~ purchased ⁱⁿ at Bombay, including cloth, are either rare, superior, cheaper or fancy goods.

7.38 It may be summed up by saying that consumer demand at Mithbav is of ~~an~~ a subsistence type, ~~is~~ scattered and ~~is~~ on credit. It is diverted to nearly towns and market places and partly cut off at the source by purchases made ⁱⁿ at Bombay.

7.39. Consequently trading has ~~also~~ adjusted itself to the above peculiarities of demand. The principal features of trading are distribution of shops in the village, selling

on credit and combination of different lines. ~~of goods.~~

7.40 Of the 8 grocery shops, only two are situated in the market place. Both these belong to Vaishyas. One shop run by a Brahmin is situated in Bhatwadi, a locality a mile away to the north of the market place, up the main road. In between the two, in Ehandar wadi, is situated a grocery shop run by a Vaishya. Two shops run by Gabits, are situated in Tambaldeg, the western most locality inhabited by Gabits. Between this locality and the market place, there are two shops, both owned by Vaishyas, one in Waghoba wadi and the other in Harba wadi.

7.41 Retail shops other than grocers, however, are mainly situated in and near the market place also adjoining the high school and training college. All the three cloth shops and ^{the} three stationery shops (making in all 4 shops only, due to combined selling) are in the market place. One stationery shop is situated in a locality called Narewadi, near the ^{near} primary school and another in Shegulwadi, near the primary school situated in the locality. There are three flower mills which are almost evenly ^{located,} distributed ^{and} in the market place, one in Waghobachi Wadi a locality situated centrally and the third in the fishermen's locality of Tambaldeg, to the extreme west.

7.42 Tea shops numbering 11 are also distributed through different wadis, those in the ~~xxx~~ market place being four. There are four tailor's shops, all situated in the market place. Two of the four also run cloth shops and one has a soda factory. There are two gold-smith's shop in the market place.

7.43 All ~~the~~ shops allow purchase on credit, because of the regular nature of incomes of about 50% of the families. Cash remittances are received regularly every month. In addition to the above, there are 36 teachers who are salaried employees getting regular monthly incomes. Of the standing debts, about 5% turn out to be bad debts according to the traders. The two grocers and the owner of the flour mill, all situated in the Gabit locality of Tambaldeg, however, reported that there were no bad debts at all, the customers being very particular in repaying their dues. This is due to two reasons, firstly, all the three traders belong to the fishermen caste and secondly, the fishermen earn regular cash incomes daily by selling fresh or dry fish.

7.44 All the grocers, with the exception of the two situated in the fishermen's locality, reported ownership of land, cultivated by them, with the help of hired labourers. ~~5 of the grocers are varies i.e. belonging to the trading caste, 2 Gabits (fisherman) and 1 Brahmin.~~

7.45 A notable feature of trading at Mithbav is that, excepting grocery trade and tea shops, all other shops are combinations selling two or three lines simultaneously. Two grocers also have joint enterprises. The different combinations are given below :

1. Grocery and Flour mill.
2. Grocery and medicines and stationery.
3. Stationery, cloth and medicines.
4. Stationery, cloth and fancy articles.
5. Stationery, cloth and tailoring.
6. Cloth and tailoring.
7. Bakery, soda factory and tailoring.

7.46 There are two reasons for the above type of dealings. Firstly, the demand, except in grocery articles, is so low (less than 10% of total turnover of groceries) scattered and often diverted that it does not permit profitable business in a single line. The case of selling cloth is an example. Though no quantitative estimation is possible, it was reported that more than 80 per cent of the requirements of cloth ^{are} supplied by Bombay directly and brought along by visiting migrants. In addition, 3 or 4 Sindhi traders attend the weekly market with their stocks of cheap and fancy cloth and take away a part of the business of ^{selling} cloth. It was also reported that purchases of cloth for marriage occasions etc. are, to a small extent, done at Chinder, a village about 12 // miles south of Mithbav in Malvan Taluka. As such it is not possible for a Mithbav trader to run a shop selling cloth exclusively.

7.47 In the case of the grocer running a flour-mill, it was the initiative and business ^{acumen} ~~max~~ of the owner, who, realising the central situation of his shop started the flour mill by raising a loan. In the second case of the grocer selling medicines and stationery, it was a heavy loss in his earlier medicine and stationery shop caused owing to non-repayment of dues by debtors that made him start a grocery shop.

7.48 The two shops selling stationery articles, cloth and medicines (and fancy articles) are of a recent origin and have been opened with the specific purpose of selling these articles. The case of the three tailors is different. They

began as tailors and added other lines, as and when they were in a position to save and raise capital. In two of the three cases, it was reported that the capital invested by the owners for adding a different line of goods, was generated in their *earlier* entire occupation.

7.49 The non-availability of capital ^{in the village} ~~outside the business~~ is the second reason for this phenomenon of joint selling. Capital external to the trading occupation is reported to be difficult to secure. Only one trader, the grocer running the flour mill, reported raising of two loans of Rs.1000/- and 3500/- (at 9% & 7%) respectively. ~~It is believed that this might be a case of mis-reporting.~~ The general custom of raising capital is to collect temporary loans (interest free) from the small savings of relatives and repaying them by instalments. An impediment ⁱⁿ to raising capital, as reported by the above grocer, was the enactment of tenancy legislation which has made sale or mortgage of land impossible.

7.50 The difficulty of getting capital for investment is reflected in the case of trading establishments started recently. In all the cases, the initial capital came from the small savings of the trader or was collected by advances from friends and relatives. It was reported that similar shops would have been started by others if it were possible for them to raise a loan in the village.

7.51 Trading activity follows a cyclical pattern being lowest during the four months of the monsoons (15%) and highest during the summer months, from February to May, (50%). The yield of rice from the family plot can satisfy the requirements

of the family for 4 to 6 months on an average. A part of the produce is reserved for the purpose of consumption and as seeds, required during next crop season. ~~the cultivation.~~ The balance carries the family for 3 or 4 months after the harvest at the end of which purchases of rice and jowar begin. According to one of the bigger grocers, 50% of the year's business is done during these four months. Of this more than 60% account for the sales of cereals alone. During the normal months from October to February, the proportion of sales of cereals falls to about 30%, the sales of condiments and spices, gul, kerosene etc. being nearly 70%. During the four months of the rainy season only 15% of the total business is done, the sales pertaining mostly to the above commodities. Cereals during this period amount to about 15%. People are engaged in cultivation during these months, movement becomes difficult owing to bad roads and uncertain heavy rains and stocking of provisions, like foodgrains, kerosene, Gul and dry fish is already done.

7.52 Trading in stationery articles, however, is more or less uniform throughout the year, there being 4 primary Schools. 1 Fisheries School, 1 High School and 1 Training College for primary teachers. Trading in cloth is brisk during the marriage seasons, i.e. in December and January and April and May. As noted earlier, total turnover in this business is itself small being less than 20% of the requirements of the village. Medicines sell mainly during the monsoons, when people suffer from colds and fevers owing to dampness caused by heavy rains and work in the fields.

7.53 Selling in the weekly market also follows the above pattern according to the goods sold. The importance of the weekly market is brought about by the fact that 8 grocers, in addition to the two situated in the market place, bring their shops to the market. 3 of these belong to the village itself having their regular shops in other localities, 5 traders come from nearby villages, 1 from Bagmala (2 miles) 1 from Dahibav (4 miles) and 3 from Hindale, the village across the river and selling chillies, onions etc. and not cereals. The two grocers situated in the market place ^{spread} place their commodities a little outside the shop on the road, in order to attract more business and for quicker sales. In addition to the above about 7 dealers, selling spices and condiments attend the market regularly during 8 months of the year. Of these, 3 came from a village called Chinder (11 miles), 2 from Kamata (7 miles) and 2 from Kankavli, a bazar town 40 miles away. All these dealers do a business of about 25 to 30 rupees individually on an average market day.

7.54 Wholesale purchases are done at Devgad, the taluka place 21 miles away and also a port, at Fonda, a central market place (40 miles away) in the southern half of the Ratnagiri district and where all traffic routes to Kolhapur converge and at Kolhapur, 90 miles away. If trucks are available, occasional purchases are also ^{reported to be} done at Nippani and Belgaum market places ⁹⁰ ~~100~~ and 150 miles respectively.

7.55 Generally purchases of sugar, rice, kerosene and pulses are done at Devgad which is in direct contact with Bombay on the coastal sea route. All other retail stores

like jowar and bajri, gul, chillies, spices, onions, oils etc. are done at Fonda and Kolhapur. The purchasing, however, depends on the contacts established with the wholesalers at the above places and also on the size of business at Mithbav. Small traders, having limited contacts, make their entire purchases from Devgad and Fonda and do not go to Kolhapur. The general tendency is to make the purchases at one place in order to facilitate ^{bulk-}bulk-transport to Mithbav, ~~possible~~.

7.56 The traders, as a general practice, get ~~1~~ credit period of one month from the wholesalers. The system is that the Mithbav trader has to clear the account of his earlier purchases before buying fresh stocks. Where the purchases are of a bigger nature amounting to ^{Rs.}two to three thousand, interest at 9% is charged beyond the credit period of 1 month. A smaller trader, however, reported that the wholesaler from whom he makes his purchases, allows a credit period of 2 months also, within which the dues are invariably paid. He also reported that a delay in settling earlier debts results in a slightly higher quotation of rates (4 to 8 annas per bag). In addition, the travelling charges of the wholesaler's bill clerk, who comes to Mithbav to collect dues, have also to be paid by the local dealer. These extra costs make the traders at Mithbav purchase their stores on cash as far as possible.

7.57 Of the three traders dealing in cloth, one selling long cloth and striped cloth for night dressing makes his purchases along with patent medicines, stationery, ~~and~~ toilet and fancy articles at Bombay entirely on cash. He visits Bombay twice a year for ~~the~~ making the purchases and has to

spend about 100 rupees for the purpose. Another also makes his purchases of cloth of the above type and stationery and medicines at Bombay on cash but also gets some stocks of handloom cloth from Kolhapur. The third cloth dealer who is also a tailor ^{and deals} ~~dealing~~ in saris, shirting, long cloth and night dressing makes his purchases only from Kolhapur, where he gets goods on one month's credit. He reported a loan of Rs.370/- raised in a Kolhapur bank by mortgaging gold ornaments. The grocer who also sells medicines and stationery, gets his medicines from Poona and Bombay through a bank at Devgad and makes some purchases of stationery and medicines from Kolhapur also. This trader expressed his opinion that the absence of a bank at Mithbav caused him additional costs of going to Devgad often and also limited his turnover as lack or insufficiency of capital made him maintain smaller stocks of goods, he being a dealer in groceries, medicines and stationery articles. The difficulty of transport is ~~also~~ an additional factor. Except grocery articles, all his goods come by the S.T. service and much delay is caused unnecessarily.

7.58 Along with the difficulty of availability of capital that of transport is also a major difficulty experienced by the traders of Mithbav. Transport of goods is done by trucks and bullock-carts. No goods-truck is either owned by a Mithbav dealer or is available at Mithbav. They have to be hired at Devgad or Fonda or Kolhapur. The three bigger traders at Mithbav can hire an entire truck because of the bigger volume of their purchases. They hire bullock carts also when the purchases are of a smaller size, or when trucks are not

available. In the case of smaller traders, transport by bullock carts is more often resorted to because of smaller size of purchases. They use trucks if space is available on one, carrying goods of other dealers to Mithbav. Many a time, it happens that the dealers time their purchases along with other local traders so that a truck can be hired jointly by two or three dealers. Transport by trucks is preferred by all because it is cheaper, speedier and can carry a larger volume of goods (~~more than 8~~ ^{about 10} cartloads) at a time. Trucks can be used for short as well as long distances, whereas carts are hired mainly for short distances i.e. carrying goods from Devgad and Fonda.

7.59 The average rates of freight per bag of 2½ maunds by trucks are Re.1/- from Devgad, Rs.2/- from Fonda and Rs.3/- from Kolhapur. When stocking of goods is done at the close of the fair season towards the end of May, these rates increase by four to eight annas, depending upon the availability of trucks and the urgency of the purchasing trader. The rate of transport by bullock-carts is slightly higher i.e. Rs.1/8/- per bag of 2½ maunds from Devgad and Rs.2/8/- per bag from Fonda. There are no extra loading charges when bullock carts are hired, the cartman, loading and unloading the bags himself. In the case of trucks, an additional charge of about two to three annas per bag has to be borne by the dealer for loading and unloading at ^{each} both ends.

7.60 The approach road connecting Mithbav with the main road from Devgad to Kolhapur at a distance of 9 miles, runs only upto the market place in Mithbav. The above rates

of transport are applicable upto this place. The two grocers along the main road and the two in the market place have not to pay any additional charges of transport. But for the remaining traders, The goods unloaded by the trucks near the market place, have to be taken to their shops situated in localities, unapproachable by the trucks. This has to be done either by carts or by labourers carrying the bags on heads. For these dealers the additional charges amount from four to eight annas per bag. For the two grocery dealers whose shops are in the distant locality of Tambaldeg, they are 12 annas per bag.

7.61 The retail rates at Mithbav are reported to be higher by 6 to 10 per cent than those prevalent at Devgad or Fonda. They are higher still (15%) at Tambaldeg. Apparently the increase is due to comparatively larger transport ^{costs} charges.

7.62 With the exception of two, all the grocers' shops are located in owned houses, where storing is ^{also} done. Only one of the bigger traders, reported ~~the~~ hiring of a room for two months during the rains for storing of goods. During the other 10 months, his goods are also stored in his residential house and shop.

7.63 The tables given below give certain income and expenditure figures of the grocers and other shopkeepers. Excepting a few cases, all the figures are reproduced as given by the traders themselves.

Statement of expenses and incomes of Trading Establishments.

Grocery Shops

Sr. No.	Situation	Caste of owner	Duration of business	Shop Expenses			Furniture & Fixtures	Annual cost of transport	Annual turn-over	Bad debts	Income
				Rent	Light	Servants					
1	Market	Vaishya	35	-	60	100	500	1000	22000	125	2500
2	"	"	4	216	180	960	500	1500	20000	1000	2000*
3	Ehandar-wadi	"	1	100	60	-	400	225	8000	50	1000
4	Bhatwadi	Brahmin	35	-	30	-	-	200	5000	600	600
5	Harbawadi	Vaishya	8	45	-	-	100	175	3000	2000	-
6	Waghoba-wadi	"	12	-	60	420	700	1500	20000	500	2000*
7	Tambaldeg	Gabit	17	-	15	-	-	150	1500	25	600
8	"	"	1	-	40	-	-	700	2000*	-	500

* Estimated

351 445 1480 2200 5450 81500 4300 9200

9 Other Shops

Type of shop											
9	Stationery, medicine & cloth	Bhandari	3	-	25	100	1000	150	2500	300	500
10	Stationery, cloth & Fancy articles	"	1	132	-	-	400	100	1500	25	350
11	Books & Stationery	Maratha	5	-	-	-	30	10	200	20	-
12	Stationery & Other articles	"	5	-	-	-	50	100	2000	-	200

1480 360 6200 345 1050

* Estimated

- 2 -

The table gives 2 principal types of expenditure, that on rent, and light, ~~furniture and fixtures~~ and transport. As regards rent it can be seen from the table that only 3 dealers, ^{one} are in the market place, one in Bhandarwadi and the third in Harbawadi pay shop rent. In the case of the rest, the shops are situated in owned houses, the rear portions of which serve as residential quarters. The column for furniture and fixtures, in this connection, brings out the fact that in the case of 3 shops, Nos. 4, 7 & 8, there are ^{no} furniture & fixtures as such, the goods being stored and sold in the front portion of the residential house itself. ^{there do not have any appearance of shops.} The expenditure on rent amounts to less than 5% of the total turnover. The expenditure on lighting was reported by all except one, who was almost on the brink of liquidation because ^{of} heavy overdue. The shops keep open for about 2 hours after sunset usually. The expenditure amounts to ^{of} 0.54% the total turnover. Together, the expenditure on rent and light amounts to about Rs.800, slightly less than 1%.

7.64 Only 3 traders reported having servants. Of these, two had their shops in the market place and were the biggest in the village. The third dealer, having his shop in ^{Waghobawadi} ~~Bhandarwadi~~, also runs a flour mill. The servant is essentially ^{on servants} a mill assistant. The ~~total~~ expenditure amounts to 1.75% of the total turnover.

7.65 The expenditure on furniture and fixtures, is not an item of current expenditure. The furniture is old and ^{has been} manufactured locally. Of the 5 traders reporting this item, 3 are the biggest traders of the village. The fourth has opened a smaller shop in Bhandarwadi only a year back and had

had to spend Rs.400 for furniture. The fifth dealer, the one on the brink of liquidation has his shop in a temporary construction, thatched with hay and reported comparatively smaller value of furniture. The present value of furniture and fixtures, inclusive of weights and measures, amounts to 2.7% of the turnover.

7.66 The principal item of current expenditure is that ~~incurred on~~ transport of goods from places of purchase. All the dealers have reported this expenditure. The individual expenses on this item are closely related to the individual turnovers. Over the total this expenditure amounts to about 7% of the total turnover.

7.67 The average annual bad debts amount to a little more than 5% of the turnover. The figures do not ^{reveal} any particular tendency such as bigger traders ^{incurring bigger} greater bad debts or those in market place having ^{bigger} ~~greater~~ bad debts. Like-wise the first trader also reported very small bad debts, presumably due to his long standing and ~~xxx~~ better relations with his customers. The Vaishya trader, No.5 in the table, reported very large bad debts, which was the main reason why he was on the point of closing his shop.

7.68 Excepting the last named above, all reported incomes of varying degrees. Like cost of transport figures, the incomes also closely reflect the trend in individual~~x~~ turnovers. The incomes are net incomes and amount to 11.28 % of the total turnover.

7.69 The ~~second~~ ^{second} table gives the income and expenditure figures of the 4 shops, dealing in stationery, cloth and ^{three} medicine and other goods. The first of these are situated

in or nearabout the market place, the fourth being situated in Shegulwadi, opposite to the primary School in that locality. Excepting one reporting expenditure on rent, all are housed in owned houses, ^{are} and closed at sun-down and have no servants. These shops report almost identical percentages of transport costs and bad debts as those reported by grocers. The incomes, however, amount to nearly 17% of the total turnover, presumably due to higher rates being charged, this made possible by the comparative absence of competition.

Tea Shops :

7.70 There are 10 tea shops in Mithbav. One of the reasons for these is the large proportion of cash in the income structure. There is a salaried class of teachers; nearly half the number of families receive cash remittances from Bombay; and lastly there are the cash incomes from sale of fish.

7.71 Another reason for the existence of so many tea shops is that the main occupation of cultivation keeps those engaged in it, busy only for four ^{to five} months in a year. The remaining eight months are to be spent almost without any work as ^{other} employment opportunities are practically absent. Tea shops become ideal places ^{for} where people ^{to} can collect and carry on village-gossip. They also become centres of village politics. Two shops in particular were observed to be such centres, where a group of persons was always present. The owner of one shop happened to be the Deputy Sarpanch of the village

Panchayat and unofficial discussions on Panchayat matters were carried on ~~along~~ with other members. The shop being situated near the S.T. Stand, it does good business and also acts as a centre of information such as the arrival and departure of persons, officials and goods.

7.72 Another shop, also situated on the main approach road, was observed to be such a place of congregation, where people met to chat. This shop is run by a Bhandari. A third shop, situated in Tambaldeg and run by a ~~Gabit~~^{Bhandari}, was also frequented by ~~the~~ fishermen between intervals of their occupation and has become a centre of gossip and information.

7.73 Of the ten shops, 7 are situated along the main approach road, including two in the market place where the ~~main~~ road terminates. The remaining 3 are situated in different wadis, one on the much-used cart-track going through the village connecting the different localities, and the remaining two being situated at ^{the} two extreme ~~ends~~ of the village, one in the east and the other in the west, in the Gabit~~ia~~ locality of Tambaldeg.

7.74 The business in tea-shops is ^{predominantly} mainly in the hands of the Marathas. Only three shops are run by persons belonging to other castes. One of these is run by a Brahmin whose shop is situated in his house. Another is run by a Bhandari, the shop being located in Bhandari-wada, a predominantly Bhandari locality. The third is situated in the fishermen's locality and is run by a Bhandari.

7.75 The owners, with the exception of 3, own lands and carry on cultivation during the monsoons. Shops are kept

closed on days of heavy work during this season. One Bhandari shopkeeper reported that he has an income of three Khandis of paddy (worth about ⁷⁰⁰ 500 rupees annually) and that he runs the shop, started nine years ago by his father, mainly for the requirements of cash for ^{purchase of other necessities.} ~~consumption expenses of the family.~~ The Brahmin shopkeeper had a grocery shop which had to be closed due to heavy losses on account of non-repayment of dues by debtors, 13 years ago. He then started a tea shop in a rented place on the main road. He shifted it to his house a year back because of demands of higher rent and also because ~~of~~ his son, who was helping him in the shop, left the village for a job at Bombay. All his agricultural land is mortgaged. He has however a garden adjoining the house from which he gets an annual income of 250 rupees from coconuts and ^{betel} beetle nuts (supari). The Panchayat official, whose shop is situated near the S.T. Stand ^{which is in the vicinity of} ~~near~~ the Panchayat, ^{offices} ~~the bazaar and the~~ High School and College, does a good business grossing about Rs. 2500 a year and reported giving away his land to his brother, who is a teacher, for cultivation.

7.76 Of the 7 shops along the road, 5 are in regular pacca constructions of which 3 are owned by the shop keepers themselves. The remaining two along the road and the 3 situated in Wadas are in temporary huts. A nominal rent for the use of the land is paid to the owner of the land on which the shop stands.

7.77 Materials like sugar, tea powder, gram flour etc. required for the business are purchased on cash as far as

possible from local dealers. Occasionally they are brought on credit, the period of credit never extending beyond two weeks. Only the Panchayat Official running the tea shop reported a debt of Rs.200/- due to the local traders for materials purchased. The eatables are prepared by the owners themselves, only one shopkeeper reporting the imports of sweets from Bombay worth about 200 rupees annually. The weekly purchases, as reported by the shopkeepers, range from 15 to 30 rupees on the average depending on the size of the shop, the Panchayat Official being the only one reporting average purchases of Rs.60/- per week or Rs.250 ^{per} ~~for~~ month. All the shopkeepers do better business on the market day.

7.78 The two shopkeepers situated in the market place reported that their business depended on the number of persons frequenting ^{the market-place} ~~the bazaar~~ for their purchases. They invariably collect 15 to 20 rupees on market days, business on other days being low. Regarding the regularity of the custom, it was expressed that about 60% of the total turnover depended on steady custom, the remaining 40% depending on the traffic of people. The Bhandari shopkeeper reported that he was doing excellent business formerly when the ration shop conducted by the Multipurpose Cooperative Society, was situated in the same building. Another shop-keeper said that his business has deteriorated owing to the shifting of the S.T. Stand further south nearer the market place (and the Panchayat Official's shop). Previously the S.T. bus used to stop just in front of his shop and bring him good custom.

7.79 The table below gives the income and expenditure figures of all ^{the} ten shops in the village.

Table 7.4 duration Expenses and income of Tea shops

Sr. No.	Type of shop	Caste of owner	Duration of business	Shop Expenses			Furniture & Fixtures	Annual turn-over	Bad debts	Income
				Rent	Light	Servant				
1	Tea shop	Maratha	29	65	30	(80)	150	1800	-	360
2	"	"	9	65	30	-	200	1200	-	500
3	"	"	5	-	70	300*	500	2500	100	1000
4	"	"	30	-	15	-	70	800	-	300*
5	"	"	12	60	8	-	25	700	10	300*
6	"	Bhandari	9	96	30	-	150	1500	30	200
7	"	Brahmin	12	-	25	-	100	1500	-	200
8	"	Bhandari	10	-	-	-	50	1000	-	300
9	"	Maratha	5	-	60	-	60	1000*	-	200
10	"	Maratha	1	75	96	240	200	2500	-	450
				286	364	540	1505	14500	140	3910

* Estimated

25/43

The expenditure on rent and light is nearly 4.5% of the total turnover, as good lighting is essential for attracting ~~the~~ customers. The main expenditure however, is on furniture and fixtures, the present value amounting to more than 10% of the turnover. All the furniture is locally manufactured. Compared to the incomes reported by the grocery and other traders, the percentage of income in tea-shop-keeping amounts ^{to} nearly 27% i.e. more than double than ^{that} ~~these~~ in grocery trade and one and a half times ^{that} ~~these~~ in other trade. There are however no transport costs.

7.80 The table below gives the percentages on different items of expenditure and income for all the three types of business, for facility of comparison. It may be noted here, that of the total turnover of Rs. ¹⁰³⁰⁰⁰ ~~100000~~ of the above three types ^{of} trading establishments, 79.12% was reported by the grocers, 14% by the tea-shopkeepers and the remaining 7% by other shop-traders keepers selling stationery, cloth and medicines.

Table 7.9 *percentage or distribution of different items of expenditure*
Percentages to individual total turnovers *in the 3 types of trading*

<u>Items</u>	<u>Grocers</u>	<u>Tea shop-keepers</u>	<u>Other shops</u>
Rent	.43	1.37	-
Light	.54	2.51	-
Furniture & Fixtures	2.70	10.37	23.87*
Transport	6.69	-	5.80
Bad debts	5.27	.9	5.56
Income	11.28	26.96	16.93
Turnover	100.00	100.00	100.00

* The disproportionate increase is due to one trader reporting an expenditure of Rs.1000/- by way of furniture & fixtures. The expenditure was incurred for wood-panelling the roof, subsequent to a theft in the shop.

The Weekly Market :

7.81 According to the Census Report of 1951, the Weekly market bazar of Mithbav serves an area of about 31 square miles and a population of 14000, including Mithbav proper. The villages served and their distances from Mithbav are, Bagmala, 2 miles, Dahibav, 2 miles, Hindale, 1 mile, Munage, 7 miles and Naringre, 12 miles.

7.82 The market assembles on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is located at the southern tip of the main approach road. After that the road extends into a foot track leading to the river 2 furlongs away and to Hindale across the river. Half a furlong northwards of the market, the cart track going through the western part of village, meets the approach road. The S.T. bus stops at this point, around which are situated important, institutions like, the Panchayat, the Rameshwar Temple, the High school and the Primary Teachers Training College. All the traffic from and to Hindale must pass through the market place. The market place itself is situated on one side of the road, the other side being flanked by grocery shops 2, Tea shops 2, 1 Goldsmith, 1 tailor cum Soda factory and 1 Tailor cum cloth merchant. On the southern side, near the market proper are situated the only saloon of the village, a goldsmith, a tailor and a tailor-cum-cloth merchant. A little further to the south, by the road, are two shops, one a stationery-cum-cloth shop and another a stationery-cum-medicine shop. The market area, i.e. the place where the weekly market actually

assembles^{is} a clearing, measuring about 2 to 3 gunthas and owned by a private individual.

As has been mentioned earlier, Mithbav is divided into many localities, some of these having small shops selling necessities like cereals, tea and sugar, kerosine, edible oils, tobacco etc. A large portion of the regular consumer demand is satisfied by these shops.

7.83 The weekly market provides certain ~~other~~ advantages and facilities. It is a place where ^{different varieties of consumption} articles ~~other than the~~ above, can be purchased together. These articles are fruits and vegetables, fish, fire wood, spices, fancy cloth, ~~betel~~ betel leaves and tobacco etc. The second important advantage is that the weekly market provides an opportunity to sell certain types of produce, produced in the garden surrounding the residential house. These are fruits like coconuts, bananas tamarind, jack fruits, mangoes, ^{betel} ~~betel~~ leaves and nuts, vegetables of different kinds, eggs and fowl, etc. Among other home produced articles mention can be made of brooms and coir ropes, kokum, lime, dry fish, earthen pots, roasted grain etc. Though no estimates are possible, it was reported that a large number of buyers in the weekly market are essentially sellers, who come to the market with a view to raise a little cash by selling some home-produced article and then purchasing their requirements.

7.84 Another important attract~~ion~~ of the weekly market is that certain articles ~~that are~~ not ordinarily available in the village can be purchased. Small traders bring to the market their shops, selling fancy cloth and ready made clothes, cheaper

varieties of toilet articles, tin and plastic goods, spices, etc. Some of the above listed home-grown or home-processed goods are also not readily available except in the weekly market.

7.85 The weekly market also affords bargaining opportunities. This is especially true in the case of certain above-mentioned articles which are home-grown or home-processed and not ordinarily available in regular shops. Some of these articles are peddled through the localities but the prices paid or received have necessarily a time-reference. They are influenced by the urgency of either the buyer or seller. The weekly market nullifies this time-value, a buyer being free to inspect and buy his requirements from any seller who in turn, can display his goods to a maximum number of purchasers. It is also true that certain articles, the necessity of which is not ordinarily felt, are purchased in the weekly market merely because they are displayed and/or ~~as~~ appear to be cheap. The weekly market thus creates additional demand, to a certain extent.

7.86 Finally, the particular importance of the weekly market at Mithbav, lies in the facility it offers to residents of the nearby villages especially Hindale, to sell their goods and purchase their requirements. In addition to small sellers, selling the above type of home-made goods, 1 grocer each from Bagnala and Dahibav and 3 grocers from Hindale bring their shops to the weekly market. A number of women from the above villages bring fire-wood bundles to the market.

7.87 Among the buyers, it was estimated by local traders, about 60% belong to Mithbav proper, 15% belong to Hindale,

- 2 -

15% comes from Dahibav and Bagmala and the remaining 10% from places like Are (6 miles) Kamata (7 miles) and other distant places. These 10% are mainly women who bring fire-wood for sale. About 60-65% of this fire wood is sold for kind i.e. principally dry fish. The remaining is sold for cash with which provisions such as rice and ^{gram} jwari, coconut oil, tobacco, kerosene etc. are purchased.

7.82 The following are the more important shops that come to the weekly market regularly.

1. Grocers :

<u>Place from which they come & distance</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Mithbav -	5	No estimate of average sales per week could be made.
Hindale (1)	3	
Bagmala (2)	1	
Dahibav (2)	1	
	<u>10</u>	

2. Sellers of Spices (Garam Masala)

Kamata (7)	2	Average sales of about 30 rupees per individual trader.
Chinder (11)	3	
Kankavli (40)	2	
	<u>7</u>	

3. Cloth.

Falebazar (8)	1	Average sale of Rs. 40 to 50 every week.
Kharepatan (40)	1	
Devgad (21)	2 (Sindhis)	
Mithbav -	<u>1</u>	
	<u>5</u>	

4. Hosiery, Ready-made clothes & cutlery

2 Sindhi traders, always on the move from one weekly market to another.	Average sale of 25-30 rupees.
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		<u>No.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
5. <u>Sweetmeat sellers</u> (Khaja & Laddoo)			
Talebazar	(8)	2	Average sale of 20-25 rupees.
Devgad	(21)	2 (Sindhis)	
Kamata	(7)	1	
Mithbav	-	2	
		<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
		7	
		<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	

7.89 In addition to the above the following types and numbers of individual sellers (not having shops) attend the market, on a typical market day (immediately prior to Ganesh Chaturthi).

Vegetable sellers	15 to 20	
Fish (dry & fresh)	40 to 50	(mainly women)
Firewood bundles	100 to 125	(" ")
Betel leaves	10	
Tobacco	5	
Gul & Oil	5	
Agarbatti & Kapur sellers	7	
Coconut sellers	14	
Betel nut sellers	5	
Broom sticks & coir ropes	4	
Bananas	4	
Others (Kokam, Salt, Bidi & Matches etc.)	15	approx.

7.90 The weekly market at Mithbav is biggest on three occasions. (1) Immediately before the Ganesh Chaturthi, the principal religious festival (An additional bazar is generally held by previous announcement of the Panchayat); (2) The beginning of the fishing season, in the first week of October when many types of new fish are brought to the market; (3) The end of the fair season, towards the end of May, when

people buy stocks for the rainy season. These stocks constitute, in the main, spices, chillies, kokam, kerosene, gul onions, coconut oil and dry fish.

7.91 Another type of seasonality observed in the weekly market is with reference to the type of goods sold. Among these are kokam, Mangoes, Cashew nuts, and different types of dry and fresh fish. These are not available through out the year, the production being restricted to certain seasons only by nature.

7.92 The average turnover of an average weekly market during the 8 months of the fair season, October to May, was estimated to be in the region of 4000-5000 rupees on an average. It is less than half during the 4 wet months, when movement becomes difficult and people are engaged in cultivation.

Trade in Garden Produce :

7.93 As observed earlier, Mithbav is situated in a hilly tract with abundant vegetation. Almost every house has a small garden around it where fruit-yielding trees grow or are planted. The main among these are the coconut trees, mango trees and cashew-nut trees, the fruits of which are sold on a larger scale than other fruits like jackfruits, tamarind, etc. Of the above three, mangoes and cashewnuts are essentially commercial crops. Coconuts from an essential part of day to day consumption and as such are only partly exported.

Mangoes :

7.94 According to local estimates, there were about 1000 mango trees in Mithbav. About 70% of these were of a local

variety, not considered fit for export. It was reported that grafting of commercial varieties was introduced 60 years ago by a Brahmin cultivator, who imported 3 grafts. Plantation of better varieties on a significant scale began by about 1945-46, when people realised the advantages of growing mangoes and exporting them. Even then, the practice is stray, individual gardens containing one or two grafts. There are no regular plantations of mango trees. Only one cultivator, a retired primary teacher, Brahmin by caste, and owning large area of land at the foot of a hill reported 150 mango trees.

7.95 Grafting is done in two ways. One is to plant the sampling or branch of a better variety. This system is called Bathe-Kalam and is reported to be more popular as it require less skill and is reported to begin yielding fruit within 3-4 years. The other system is to graft the better variety on to the bottom of a standing mango tree and cutting off the parent tree after the graft has taken root. This system requires more skill and makes more time, about 5-6 years to begin yielding the fruit.

7.96 After planting, the graft needs manuring, about 3 basket-fuls of dung manure per tree per year during the first 3 years. It was reported that the practice of giving this manure was practically absent. Only a few tree-owners, less than 5%, tend their mango trees, give manure and water them.

7.97 The trading season commences by the middle of March and lasts about 3 months. Green, un-ripe mangoes are purchased wholesale and are despatched to Kolhapur in baskets and to Bombay, mostly in wood cartons till the first or

second week of May. Thereafter the mangoes ripe fast and the market becomes local and retail.

7.98 Purchasing of mangoes is done in two ways. The more common method is to purchase by prior contract, the entire quantity of individual trees. This is done by early January. The purchasing contractor, generally an experienced person, estimates the yield of a tree when fruit is very young and small. He gets the early fruit, which fetches a better price. The general practice is to estimate only two-third or one half of the fruits to ripen and quote a price. This method, however, involves two kinds of risks both being borne by the purchasing contractor. The first and more grave risk is the withering away or falling off of small fruit in high winds

- 4 -

and gales. Secondly, there are thefts of fruit. The contractor, generally employs a watchman to prevent stealing. Occasionally, it was reported that the selling owner of the trees, undertakes to watch the fruit for an additional consideration of a rupee ~~or~~ two per tree per month. In both ~~the~~ cases the risk, however, is ^{borne} borne by the contractor. Contract money is paid in instalments, an advance of about 10% being given as earnest money, on the conclusion of the contract. Thereafter, the contractor pays instalments, generally according to the quantity of fruit plucked from the tree at a time. The owner, it was reported, objects ^{to} the removal of fruit ~~without paying~~ ^{if} such ^{proportionate} instalments ~~are not paid~~.

7.99 The second method is to purchase ready fruit. In this method the risk of falling off and withering away of fruit is ^{borne} borne by the owner himself. He also watches the tree against theft of fruit. The plucking of fruit is also done by the owner. Though this method is safer from the purchasing dealer's point of view, it is also less profitable. He has to buy exact quantities, without the benefit of early and late fruit.

7.100 Plucking ^{of} the fruit requires expert skill as the fruit should not be hurt or damaged while it is brought down. If hurt, the fruit ripens and decays fast. It was reported that there were about 15 persons, specialised in this work. ~~After bringing down the fruit they also did the packing.~~ The work ~~also~~ involves risk of falling down. The ^{wage-rate} daily charge amounts to about ~~2~~ 3 rupees. After bringing the fruit down they also do the packing.

- 4 -

7.101 The fruit is packed in baskets or wooden boxes. Better quality fruit is invariably sent to Bombay in boxes containing 6 to 8 dozen. The boxes are sent by bullock carts to Devgad, from where they are shipped in steamers or country-crafts. It was estimated that about 800 to 850 boxes are sent to Bombay in an average season. About 200 baskets containing 8 to 10 dozens each, are sent to Kolhapur by trucks. The baskets contain any number, even upto 15 dozens occasionally, as, it was reported, fruit is sold ⁱⁿ by units and not by dozen or cartons, as ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ Bombay.

7.102 Transport charges amount to $1\frac{1}{2}$ rupees per basket to Kolhapur, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ rupees per box to Bombay. A commission of $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ i.e. one anna in a rupee, is charged by the Bombay or Kolhapur dealer who arrange^s the sale. It was estimated that a profit margin of 2 to 3 rupees per box is realised in a good season. This profit varies a good deal according to the quantities, arriving in the above markets, ^{from other places.} Local estimates placed the total exports of fruit from Mithbav between 5 to 6-10 thousand rupees. About 5% of the better quality fruit was reported to be consumed in the village. All inferior quality fruit was, till recently consumed locally. It was, however, reported that a part of this also was being exported to Kolhapur during the previous two years.

7.103 All ^{bigger} ~~dealers~~ ^{wholesale} belong to places outside Mithbav. It was reported that about 6 dealers visit Mithbav every season. All these were Marathas by caste. On the ^{whole} ~~total~~, supply from Mithbav formed about 30% of their total exports per season.

7.104 Of the six who reported trading in mangoes at Mithbav, two carried on the trade as their main occupation, one along with trading in coconuts and the ~~xxx~~ other along with cultivation. Only one of these two reported ownership of 10 mango trees. Incomes reported from the trade varied from 200 to 300 in an average season. All the six were Marathas.

Of the four persons, reporting it as a subsidiary occupation, two were cultivators and two labourers.

Cashew-nuts :

7.105 The cashew is ^{an} ~~an~~ indigenous tree, growing on sandy soil or on the lower slopes of hills in a tropical coastal climate. Though this tree yields cashew nuts, considered valuable dollar earners, it is not considered much important locally. The tree is not included in Form 13 of the village records, listing important types of trees in the village.

7.106 A peculiarity of this tree is that it is not planted ^{it} ~~but~~ grows naturally. Similarly, it does not grow by the side of another cashewnut tree. The leaves that ~~have~~ fallen from the tree cover the ground making it impossible for seeds to take root, as the leaves do not rot and assimilate with earth. The leaves are not eaten by cattle. It was, however, reported that sapplings that have taken roots, require fencing so as ~~is~~ not to be trampled by ~~the~~ cattle. The tree begins yielding fruit after 5 years.

7.107 No care such as manuring, watering etc. is taken. It was reported that, except a Maratha family of Rane's owning about 200 trees, others ^{actually, or} ~~cut~~ cashew trees if they form an impediment.

7.108 The season lasts for 3 months, beginning from February. The trees are to be watched in order to prevent thefts of fruits and nuts. It was reported that some Mahar families from Hindale were in the habit of collecting nuts from Mithbav surreptitiously and selling the edible ^{kernal} ~~kruel~~ of the nuts and the husks in the village. The trees are watched by the owners only, and the nuts are collected when the fruit ripens fully. The fruit was thrown away previously, but is being sold since prohibition, ^{and} ~~as it is~~ ^{being} utilised in the preparation of a patent type of liquor, much in demand locally.

7.109 The number of cashew nut trees was estimated to be about 5000, each yielding an average of 4 payalees or $\frac{1}{2}$ maund of nuts. Of the total yield of about 1250 maunds, 65% or about 800 maunds were sold, the remaining being consumed locally or sent to relatives at Bombay. Less than one percent of the total are being consumed before the nut hardens.

7.110 The dealers, purchasing cashew-nuts, collect them from house to house or buy them in the weekly market. The dealers are of two types. The first operate as agents of two firms at Malvan, the only market for cashew nuts, with mechanical ^{decorticating} ~~decorticating~~ factories. The firms advance money to the extent of 300 to 500 rupees at a time for buying the cashew nuts. The actual size of the advance depends upon the capacity and experience of the individual dealer. The rate at which the firm purchases, is fixed prior to the advance of such capital. The agents purchase nuts from Mithbav as well as from the nearby villages of Hindale, Bagmala, Dahibav etc. There ~~too are~~ ^{are} such agents operating at Mithbav, the purchases of both amounting to nearly 70% of the total exports.

7.111 The other type of dealers are those who invest their own capital in making the initial purchases. They despatch their purchases to Malvan. It was reported that there were 6 such dealers operating at Mithbav, 5 of them being residents of the village. The ^{total} purchases of these amount to about 30% of the total exports.

7.112 The rate of purchase, varies from 4 seers a rupee or 16 rupees a maund, in the beginning of the season to 3 seers a rupee or Rs.21 a maund towards the end of the season. It was reported that the rate depends, in addition to local supplies, upon supplies from the east coast of Africa, which are sent to Malvan for *decoration*. The rates at Mithbav increase when these supplies are meagre ^{or} ~~or~~ *nil*.

7.113 ~~The purchases of~~ the two agents purchasing on behalf of Malvan firms, despatch their purchases by means of trucks to Malvan. The rest of the purchases are sent by bullock carts by the road running parallel to the sea coast. The distance of 40 miles by the regular motorable road is cut down to 22 miles by this road. Transport by carts however ^{is} was costlier as the cart road ^{is} was intercepted by rivers at two points, necessitating hiring of three carts for a single consignment. Transport rates for carts is Rs.4/- per bag of 2½ to 3 maunds, 1 rupee more than that of the truck. The margin of profit, it was reported, worked out to Rs.2 to 2½ per maund, in an average season.

C
Coconuts :

7.114 ~~As was observed earlier,~~ ^{all purpose} The coconut tree is an important tree in all coastal villages. Selling coconuts in

the weekly market is an important subsidiary occupation. A number of women, who have no occupation other than agricultural labour, sell coconuts in the weekly market. It was observed that among the persons selling coconuts regularly, 10 were from Mithbav and 5 from Hindale. They also sell broom-sticks and coir ropes alongwith. According to local estimates, on average coconuts worth Rs.50 are sold in a weekly market.

7.115 According to local estimates there are about 10,000 coconut trees at Mithbav. The village records however lists only about 5000. If properly watered and manured, a coconut tree yields about 80 to 100 coconuts. The practice of manuring is not common. It was reported that almost all the trees in yield were watered once in a week or fortnight.

7.116 It was reported that about ³⁰25% of the trees, being *Another 15 to 20% were reported to be below fruit bearing age. overall* beyond age, did not yield any coconuts. Assuming an average yield of 10 coconuts, the assumption based on local estimates, the annual production of coconuts amounted to about 100,000 coconuts. About 30% of this is exported.

7.117 5 carters, it was reported, regularly carried on this ^{export} trade each selling about 4 to 5 thousand coconuts in an average year. These carter traders, begin selling the coconuts to interior villages on their way. The coconuts are purchased locally on a ~~rx~~ credit of 5 days. They also purchase coconuts from Hindale. In addition 3 or 4 carters, engaged in transport of traders' goods, exported coconuts and sold them on way. In addition, 5 women regularly sold about 100 coconuts in the weekly market at Talega ^{bozar} ~~to~~ about ³ ~~12~~ miles away. On important festival days, 3 persons took about 200 to 300 coconuts to the above market for sale.

7.118 The remaining 70% of the total production is consumed locally, the coconuts forming an important ^{item} article of food. About 5000 coconuts or 5% are imported from the village Hindale and sold in the village market.

7.119 According to the General Family Schedule, 6 persons ^{in all} were engaged in trading in coconuts. Of these 4 were women, 3 of whom reported it as main occupation. Two women reported incomes of Rs.100 and 120 respectively where as the other two reported incomes of Rs.25 and Rs.30 from this occupation. The latter two apparently sold coconuts in the weekly market. The two males reported that this was a subsidiary occupation along with cultivation. One of these, was a carter who reported an income of Rs.100, whereas the other earned Rs.25/- from the occupation. He had a second subsidiary occupation of fishing.

Sale of coconut leaves :

7.120 Coconut leaves, when they fall off the tree, are moistened and woven. They can then be used for thatching cottage roofs and also as rain-shades during the monsoons to protect houses. They are also used for roofing pandals for marriage and religious functions.

7.121 A person owning 5 coconut trees can prepare 100 such woven leaves during a year, if he does not use the dry fallen leaves as fuel. Country-craft-owners from Devgad visit Mithbav for purchasing such leaves. They use them for erecting a thatch on the boats pulled ashore during the rainy season.

7.122 The annual sale in these leaves was estimated at about 800 to 1000 rupees. The rate is Rs.15/- per 100 when sold at Mithbay, the buyer incurring the cost of their transport to Devgad. The rate increases by 2 rupees when the delivery is given at Devgad. The rate also increases by 2 or 3 rupees at the beginnig of the monsoons when the demand as well as the urgency increases.

Transport :

7.123 The hilly terrain around Mithbav, crossed in many places by streams and riverlets renders the village difficult to approach. The approach road invariably gets ~~sham~~ damaged during the rainy season. The village itself is a deficit area as regards crops excepting few garden crops like coconuts and mangoes, and ~~as~~ ^{so} such heavy goods traffic from Mithbav is almost absent. Goods are imported by traders and brought to Mithbav by means of trucks and carts. The traffic is principally passenger traffic, composed of migrants to Bombay and those visiting the village.

7.124 This traffic is largely ^{borne} borne by the Bombay State *Road* Transport Corporation in the whole of the district. Mithbav is connected to Devgad, the taluka place, a port on the sea route from Bombay to Vengurla. During the fair weather, from October to May, almost all ~~the~~ traffic is carried by this sea route. During the 4 months of ~~the~~ the rainy season, passengers have to reach Kolhapur, the nearest railway station nearly 90 miles away to the east across the Sahyadri ranges. There is a regular State Transport bus service from Kolhapur to Devgad, carrying the mail.

7.125 About 12 miles from Devgad, the main road is met by the approach road to Mithbav at ~~*~~ Lingdal Titha, ^{the intersection of 3 roads} /so named because of the nearness of a wadi of that name. The bus from Kolhapur stops at this ~~T~~itha, where all passengers get down and wait for the Devgad-Mithbav bus. This is the only bus to Mithbav. This bus brings the mail as well and halts at Mithbav

for the night. It leaves Mithbav early next morning. In the event of this bus being ^{filled to capacity} ~~full of passengers~~, or passengers missing it, no other bus is available for the next 24 hours.

7.126 The difficulty is however solved in two ways. Firstly there ^{were are} some private fouring cars plying ^{on} the main roads and occasionally going to Mithbav also. The vehicles mainly available, however, are the trucks carrying goods to Mithbav. The truck owned by the Mithbav Fishing Cooperative Society, helps a great deal in carrying stranded passengers to and from Mithbav. Secondly, a number of persons, especially those travelling without luggage and for some specific work at Devgad, go to Devgad on foot by a short route ^{over} through the hills, running almost parallel to the sea coast. Where as the distance by ~~the~~ approach road is 21 miles, the same is cut down to about 9 miles by the cross country route. This route, however, is untraversable during the monsoons.

7.127 A part of the difficulty experienced in passenger traffic, is relieved by an additional S.T. bus from Devgad to Mithbav during the fair season. This bus is meant solely for Mithbav passengers landing at Devgad from Bombay. The bus therefore, starts at all odd hours from Devgad, depending upon the steamer services. In case no passengers to Mithbav land at Devgad, this bus does not come to Mithbav at all. The bus, therefore, is not dependable.

7.128 Mechanical transport, it was reported, began in 1924. Transport, passenger as well as goods, was mainly carried ^{on} by bullock carts till then. As mentioned elsewhere earlier,

- 23 -

there were about 150 bullock cart at Mithbav by about 1920. The number gradually decreased from that time onwards. The reasons were mainly two, first, the commencement of mechanical transport which carried passengers and a few goods more speedily and at a less cost. The second reason was more powerful. The depression during the early 1930's brought about a two sided change. Transport of goods along with trade fell to a low level. It was reported that many carters had to discontinue the occupation. Secondly, migration took place on a large scale, many of the carters going to Bombay in search of employment. The result was that by 1940 the number of carts had decreased to about 80 ⁱⁿ at Mithbav. The carts were either sold or ^{left unused.} ~~allowed to decay.~~ By 1943, the beginning of controls there ^{were about} ~~was~~ ^{only} 40 carts. There are at present 23 carters at ⁱⁿ Mithbav. It was reported that the decrease in their number still continues, one or two carters discarding the occupation for a job at Bombay every year.

71129 There are 23 families engaged in the occupation of carting. Except one Bhandari family, all belong to Marathas.

Of the 23, 4 reported it as ~~the~~ main occupation of the family. For the remaining 19, it was a subsidiary occupation. ^{Out} Of these 4, it may be noted, ~~that~~ the subsidiary source of income of 3 was ~~either~~ cash remittances from Bombay (2) and agricultural labour at Mithbav (1). The fourth family cultivated 20 gunthas of land, half owned and half tenanted. The 19 mentioned above reported cultivation as their main occupation.

7.130 The reported ages of all the 23 carters reveal that except one, all are beyond 30. It was reported that the working age began at 15. It may be said ~~if~~ from the age-structure that those who still do carting have been in the occupation for ^{about} 15 years and more. Excepting in one or two cases, none has taken to carting as an occupation during the last 10 years. It should be noted in addition that 15 out of the 23 reported carting as the occupation of their fathers, 4 reporting bullock-transport as well.

7.131 The carting occupation is carried on from December to May, i.e. 6 months during the fair weather. Transport of goods to Mithbav starts by about December, when purchases ~~begin~~ increasing gradually. Carts are hired by traders for transporting commodities and goods from Fonda (~~32 miles~~) and Devgad (~~21 miles~~). A trip to Devgad and back takes 3 days and to Fonda and back ~~4~~ 5 days. This delay, inherent in bullock cart transport has also been one of the causes for its decline. In comparison a truck can bring the goods quickly and in greater bulk at a time. This saving in time also enables the truck to complete ^{with} the carters in quoting ^{low} ~~down~~ rates. It was reported that the beginning of mechanical transport has virtually killed the carting occupation. At present carts are hired by smaller traders only. It was reported that whenever the traders' purchases were large enough, the trader invariably hired a truck. Carts are hired by bigger traders only when their purchases are less than a truck load.

7.132 Bullock carts are not manufactured at Mithbav and have to be ordered or got built from places like Kankavli (~~40 miles~~),

- 82 -

Fonda (32 miles), Shirgaon (25 miles) or from upcountry places like Kolhapur and Nipani. The prices of new bullock carts varied from 200 to 300, 10 years ago. It was reported that all carts were more than 10 years old, the occupation being gradually contracting due to reasons mentioned earlier. The present value of the 23 carts in Mithbav is estimated at Rs. 500.

7.133 The repairs expenditure on a bullock cart averages ~~to~~ about 15 rupees a year, exclusive of other running costs. The latter include lubrication oil Rs. 25 per year, expenses of shodding the bullocks, Rs. 12, and lightening the frame about Rs. 10 annually. On the total the repairs and running costs of a bullock cart averaged from 50 to 60 rupees a year, ^{expenses on fodder} exclusive of ^{are} ~~are~~

7.134 Bullocks served a dual purpose. They ~~were~~ ^{are} attached to carts as well as to ploughs. Mithbav has no cattle market. Bullocks are to be purchased at ~~the~~ places mentioned above where carts are manufactured. The average price of a bullock varied from 100 to 250 rupees, depending upon the age and size of the bullock. Often bullock were purchased from other agriculturists in villages round about Mithbav.

After the agricultural operations requiring the ^{labour} pair of bullocks is over, the bullocks are sent for grazing to ^{interior} villages situated in the plateau between the sea and the Sahyadri hills for a period of 4 months from August to November. The usual charge are 20 rupees per pair of bullocks for the entire period.

7.135 During the busy season of eight months from December

to July, the bullocks are fed on strew, hay and oil cake. It was reported that strew from the family-farm could ^{suffice} ~~feed~~ the pair for about 3 months only. The Fodder required for the remaining five months had to be purchased. It was reported that expenses on fodder during these months varied from Rs.75 to Rs.150, (Rs.200 in some instances).

7.136 With the exception of 5 carters, all were engaged in carrying goods only. The rates are fixed for carriage of goods to and from Devgad and Fonda. They are 1½ rupees per bag of 2½ maunds ⁶⁵ Devgad and 2½ rupees per bag from Fonda. The freight rates for trucks are Re.1 and Rs.2 respectively. The capacity of a bullock cart is 5 to 6 bags, or $\frac{1}{10}$ that of a truck.

7.137 The five carters, in addition to carrying some goods for the traders, do trading on their own, principally. They take on an average about 25 to 30 thousand coconuts for sale in the villages on way to Fonda. They return with rice, jowar and bajri, which they sell in Mithbav on a retail basis. It was reported that they brought about 150 bags of rice and about 200 bags of jowar and bajri, on an average annually. At the rates prevalent during the survey year, 1954-55, the total turnover in the trading activity done by the carters amounts to between 10 to 11 thousand rupees a year. At the rate of 11.25% of the total turnover, calculated ^{earlier} in the case of grocers the income on the above turnover of 10 to 11 thousand amounts to Rs.1125 to 1250 for ^{all} the carters, or Rs.225 to 250 individually. This compares favourably with average income of Rs.300 to 350 reported by these carters, this income including the carriage charges of the above goods. This type of trading it was

reported, was steadily declining.

7.138 Transport of goods by bullock carts within the village is very small. The carters use their carts to transport farm yard manure from the residential place ^{to} such fields as are accessible by ~~the~~ cart. Occasions ^{when} ~~of the~~ carts ^{are} being hired for transport within the village are few; these being carriage of laterite blocks from the foot of hills to the place of construction and carriage of fire wood from the jungles to the villages. The former type of work depends entirely upon building activity undertaken in the village and the distance between ~~the~~ stone quarries and ^{the} building site. Transport of fire wood by carts is done only towards the end of May, when people, especially those in a salaried employment like high school teachers, stock fire-wood ~~from~~ the approaching rainy season. All such hire transport was reported to be less than 10% of the total.

7.139 Following tables gives a classification of the carters into groups of income from carting and the proportion of income from carting as compared to the total family income reported by the 23 families.

Table 7.6. Classification of Carting Families according to Incomes

	<u>Income from carting</u>	No. of families.
50 and below		8
51 to 150		10
151 to 250		3
251 to 350		1
Above 350		1

Proportion of carting income to total family income

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Proportion</u>
Total Family income	12,220	100.00
Income from carting as the main occupation (4 families)	900	7.36
Income from carting as subsidiary occupation (19 families)	1,995	16.32
Total of Income from Carting	2,895	23.69
Remittances received by 11 families	1,515	12.39

The above tables indicate the size of incomes derived from the occupation as well as its proportion in total family incomes. Even in a continuous state of decline, the occupation is carried on by 23 families, the returns from the occupation forming nearly 24% of the total family income.

7.140 There are no trucks at Mithbav. Traders have to hire trucks at Devgad or Fonda. There is however a small truck belonging to the Mithbav Fishing and Trading Cooperative Society, which is solely meant for carrying fisher women and their fish to bazar villages in the taluka. Every week the truck makes trips to Talebazar, Koloshi, Fonda and Kankavli, places with weekly markets on different days of the week. The truck is always filled to capacity, there being no other transport ^{carrying fish-baskets} (to the market villages. As mentioned earlier this truck also helps stranded passengers while returning to Mithbav from the above villages.

7.141 The truck is used by a person who has employed a paid driver to operate it. The driver looks after all the repairs; the repairs ~~costs~~ amounting to about 800 to 1000 rupees

- 33 -

annually. Under an agreement with the Fishing Cooperative Society, the person managing the truck pays Rs.1125^{annually} to the Society for this right. The agreement also includes a right of priority of carriage to the fisherwomen at prescribed rates.

7.142 Lastly, there is a certain volume of water-transport on the river ferry between Mithbav and the southern village of Hindale. The Ferryman is paid according^{to} the traditional system of customary payments by the villagers of both Mithbav and Hindale. A case study of the ferryman therefore follows in greater details as regards the operation, the costs and returns.

The Ferryman :

7.143 Mithbav and the adjoining village of Hindale are separated by a small river, ^{Called the Mithbav river} which ^{merges in} joins the sea at the south-western point of Mithbav. There is constant contact between the two villages. People from either village come and go for work to the other village. More than 50 students from Hindale, attending the High school at Mithbav. In addition, Hindale, is situated on the northern flank of ^a hillock and can be reached only from Mithbav. All passenger and goods traffic therefore has to pass through Mithbav and across the river.

7.144 By an ancient right, reported to have been conferred by the Peshwas themselves, a single family has been plying the boats^{to} carry ~~the~~ passengers. The present ferryman, aged 65 reported that the right has been enjoyed by ^{his} their family for the last four generations. He has been plying the boats since his 13th year.

7.145 By the same custom, both the villages give Baluta or customary payments to the ferryman who has to carry all passengers of both the villages free of charge. The payment had been fixed at 1 payalee or 4 seers of paddy (0-11-0 at harvest prices) per household of both the villages. The cultivators families give paddy, while others make a different types of kind payments. ^{The} ~~an~~ oilman (or Teli) had to give 1 seer of oil, a trader (or Vani) 2 lbs. of Gul, a Harijan (Mhar) 2 coconuts and a Brahmin, 2 barge poles. The system is still in vogue in the village. The ferryman, however, reported great difficulties in the collection of these Baluta dues. The former families have broken up, breaking up the former baluta of 1 ^{paylee} ~~paylee~~ into many parts, even into fractions of a seer. The former practice of giving 4 bundles of stalk has stopped since the beginning of War.

7.146 The Ferry has to be worked from sun rise to sunset. A grandson of the ferryman, aged 17 and educated upto 7th standard vernacular, at present attends to the duties. Whenever the attendant is absent, the passengers, generally people from either of the villages, were observed to row themselves across.

7.147 Passengers who do not belong to either of the village are charged $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for crossing the ferry. According to the ferryman, an average cash income of as.12 ^{per day} is collected by way of these charges. The year's average income is put at 200 rupees by him.

7.148 The ferryman has two small boats of his own, which are used for crossing the ferry. The present value of these

boats is estimated at about 50 rupees each. Both were constructed two years ago. A single boat has a working life of three years at the maximum.

7.149 The cost of a new boat is estimated at Rs.200/- approximately. The wood, generally the trunk of a mature mango tree, is purchased at Rs.100, the felling charges(done on contract) amounting to Rs.10/-. After the trunk, from which the boat is carved out, has been cleared and cut, the tree yields fire wood worth about 20 rupees. This is sold. A carpenter is then engaged on daily wages of Rs.2-8-0. The ferryman complained that the sutar usually stretches the work of about 8 days to nearly a month in order to increase the days of his work. The carpentry work alone costs him about 60 rupees. The boat has to be outrigged in order to make it safe from accidents. This is done by tying a rigger called 'ulandi' to two poles extending about 10 feet from the boat. The rigger is also of the shape of a small boat and touches or is submerged under water. This device maintains the balance of the boat, minimising the danger of capsizing. The rigger is made of 'Pangara' g wood which is supposed to be light. Each out-rigger costs about 8-10 rupees. A single boat requires two out-riggers per year, as they are to be replaced every week and dried.

7.150 The ferryman collects cash contributions from the villagers, whenever he undertakes the construction of new boat. The contributions are not forthcoming as they used to be. He reported that after repeated requests and accepting a minimum contributions of ^{even} 4 annas, he manages to get about Rs.50/- per year.

7.151 The ferryman gets a rupee by way of custom and privilege from the village deity of Hindale ^{which} ~~that~~ crosses the river and back during its ^{annual} festival. During this festival the ferryman has to carry more than 500 persons from both the villages. This of course he does free of charge. As a number of outsiders also attend the ^{and} fair ~~or~~ the festivities, the ferryman ~~also~~ gets a cash income of about rupees 10 during the two days. It was however reported that the ferryman plies an additional boat by hiring a labourer (Gabit by caste) for Rs.2 per day and actually, collects about 35 rupees. The ferryman charges rupees two for carrying a marriage party across.

7.152 At present, a batch of 50 students attending the High school at Mithbav, crosses the ferry twice every day. The ferryman reported that he intends to make additional demands of grain from the parents of these students, for carrying them across.

CHAPTER - VIII.The Fishing Community and Occupation at Mithbav.The Locality:

8.1 The fishing community of Mithbav, called Gabits locally, are clustered in Tambaldeg, a sandy strip of land adjoining the coast line and lying about 2 miles ^{from the market place} to the extreme west of the village. Habitation begins from about 100 feet from the tide - line of the sea. The area is strewn with coconut grooves interspersed with cashew and suru trees.

8.2 The Gabits, said to have been originally brought by the village dignitaries of Mithbav, mainly for getting beach-manure for their coconut trees, were residing in Kond, a locality, half a mile inland to the east ^{of the present locality.} It was reported that there were about 125 ^{gabrit} families sixty years ago.

8.3 Round the turn of the century, a few families, had moved over to the present area of Tambaldeg, in order to be nearer the sea, which facilitated fishing by dragnets, requiring collective effort by a number of persons. Two Rapan companies came to be established during this period, one in 1890 and the other in 1900. This movement was partly facilitated by the fact that the land at Tambaldeg was also owned by the above-mentioned dignitaries, mainly Brahmins. The area was parcelled and leased out at a nominal annual rental and an agreement whereby the leasee undertook to water the coconut trees standing in the leased land.

8.4 This movement from Kond to Tambaldeg, has been continuous. Following the example of the early settlers and realising the advantages of nearness to the fishing grounds,

- 2 -

fishermen families began settling at Tambaldeg at the rate of 2-4 families a year on an average. Till about the 20's as many as 5 to 10 families used to move over to Tambaldeg annually. The movement has practically stopped now, the earlier locality of Kond, now housing only 20 fishing families.

8.5 The continuous growth of Tambaldeg has justified the decision taken by the early settlers. The First World War appears to have brought better earnings to the fishing community as it is only since this period that construction of residential houses of a permanent type, with plyths, mud walls and tiled roofs, was reported to have been undertaken at Tambaldeg. Till then the families used to live in cottages, thatched and walled with woven coconut leaves. The Gabits acquired land from the ^{former} farmer owners. During the Survey year 62 % of the Gabit families owned land, the remaining having their houses on leased area.

8.6 Regarding equipment, it was reported that there were 4 large-sized boats and 12 smaller boats about sixty years ago. After the First World War, the number of boats seems to have increased at a fast rate. Whereas only one new Rapan company was formed in 1910, 4 new Rapan companies were formed after the 20's, 1 in 1922; 1 in 1925 and 2 in 1928. In addition to other fishing gear like nets, this meant an addition of 6 large-sized boats.

8.7 The Great Depression of 1929, was reported to have greatly affected the occupation of fishing. Though the tendency to migrate to Bombay in search of regular salaried work was on the increase in step with the increased migration of other communities of the village, it was after the 30's that migration of young men from the fishermen community became very significant. It was reported that this was due to many other reasons also,

in addition to the low prices ruling in the 30's. The main reason was that the occupation itself lacked security and a regular income. The occupation, in addition, was hard, unclean and joyless. It was also reported that fish became ^{scarce} ~~scarce~~, thus reducing the per capita catch, which had already dwindled owing to more and more persons entering the occupation. This ~~drifting away~~ ^{Severance} from the fishing occupation can be illustrated by the circumstances of the family of one of the respondents, wherein, all of the four sons of the respondent are engaged in non-fishing occupations. One is in ^{the} Police ^{Department} ~~dept.~~ and the other is a teacher the third an employee in the Postal Department and the fourth in retail grocery trade. The fact that this Gabit family has to purchase fish for consumption is significant. The increased diversion of younger members of the community, was also attributed to the gradual modernisation that came about in almost all Konkan villages, due ^{to} their continuous contact with the city of Bombay. The fishing occupation, being dependent on tides and phases of the moon, had to be pursued at all odd hours and denied the fishermen regular hours of work and leisure. In direct contrast to this were ~~other~~ salaried jobs, giving regular hours of leisure during which modern ways of living like good clothes and entertainments, could be enjoyed. It was reported that 50 years ago, the fishermen used to stick their own clothes though there were two tailors in the village. At present, all sticking is done by tailors in the village. There are three tailors who are Gabits.

8.8. The distance between the village market and the fishermen's locality of Tambaldeg and presumably the cash nature of

their incomes, had attracted a number of traders to the locality during the last fifty years. A small grocery shop was started at the beginning of the century by a trader belonging to the vaishya community. The shop did business for about 11 years and was closed owing to heavy debts. After the vaishya trader, as many as five traders, 1 Maratha, 2 Muslims and 2 Gajits attempted trading at Tambaldeg, at the ^{same} place where the first shop was situated. It may be noted that one of the Muslim traders was ^{also} a wholesale-buyer of fish at Tambaldeg. The shop under each new trader lasted for a period of 3 to 5 years and changed ownership. The reasons advanced for the successive failures of the shop were given as (1) limited capital (2) heavy bad debts and (3) consumption expenditure of the trader himself. The main reasons are, however, (1) ^{the fact that} purchases of provisions for the week or month are made at the village market place by fishermen ^{women} who go round all the wadis or localities of the villages selling fish. The village market supplies their requirements at slightly reduced rates also. The traders at Tambaldeg had to incur additional transport costs to take the commodities from the village to Tambaldeg and as such had to raise the prices slightly. (2) Much of the fish was sold in exchange for paddy by the fishermen, who ^{insisted on kind payments in paddy.} ~~refused to sell fish for cash.~~ The sales of the principal item of grocery trade namely cereals was thereby reduced, and the trader ^{at Tambaldeg} had to content ^{himself} by selling supplementary grocery articles like chillies and spices, tea and sugar, tobacco, kerosene etc. In this again, he had powerful competitors ^{too} in the bigger grocers in the market place and the weekly market itself.

8.9 A comparison between the two periods, namely the period prior to 1920 and the survey year of 1954-55, reveals certain facts qualitative as well as quantitative, signifying the continuous growth of the locality.

There has been a vertical expansion in the occupational structure of the community. This has been mainly due to increasing population and the inability of the fishing occupation to absorb them; illustrative of which is the fact that the youngest rapam company was established in 1929. There has not been any new rapam companies since then. Whereas, according to reports, almost all persons in the community were engaged in fishing during the first period, the survey data brings out certain trends towards divergence from the hereditary occupation.

8.10. Table below gives the occupation^{al} classification of the community according to 'main' and 'subsidiary' categories.

Table 8.1 Occupational classification of Golbit families.

	<u>Occupation.</u>	<u>No. of families pursuing it as main.</u>	<u>No. of families pursuing it as subsidiary.</u>
1	Cultivation.	1	5
2	Agricultural labour.	3	7
3	Plantation.	2	3
4	Fishing.	109	15
5	Processing.	4	-
6	(Tailoring, flour mill)		
6	Trading. etc.	2	1
7	Trading in fish.	38	35
8	Transport (water.)	1	1
9	Medicine.	1	-
10	Teaching.	6	-
11	Local services.	1	-
12	Pensions.	2	-
13	Remittances.	75	17
14	Other unproductive work.	5	2
15	No. subsidiary occupation.	-	164
		<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
		*****	*****

It may be seen from the above table that 147 or 58.8 % of the total number of families were engaged in fishing or trading in fish as the main family occupation. 75 or 30.0 reported remittances from relatives employed at Bombay, as the chief source of livelihood. 6 are engaged as

- 6 -

as teachers in the village itself.

Among occupations pursued as subsidiary, fishing and trading in fish engaged 50 or 6%, and remittances 17 or 5.8% ; 164 or 65.6% reporting absence of any subsidiary occupation.

There has been an increase in general trading activity in the locality, with 2 grocery shops and a flour mill run by Gabits and a tea-hotel run by a Bhandari.

8.11 The table below gives the owned and the cultivated holdings of Gabits. It may be seen that whereas 155 families own land, only 21 reported cultivation. The cultivated area was about 12% of the total land owned. Land was acquired mainly for residential purposes, as can be

seen from the average size of holding per family namely 14.4 gunthas.
 Total 8.2 Land owned and Land cultivated by Gabit families.

Size.	Land owned.		Land cultivated.	
	A.	G.	A.	G.
Upto 10 gunthas.	15	- 2	1	- 23
11 -20 "	23	- 23	1	- 19
21 -30 "	7	- 10	0	- 22
31 -40 "	-	- -	0	- 34
41 -60 "	2	- 27	3	- 0
61 -80 "	3	- 10	1	- 25
81 -100 "	-	- -	-	- -
2½ 5 5 Acres.	4	- 0	-	- -
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	55	- 32	9	- 3

As noted earlier, there has been an increase in the capital and asset holding of the locality as a whole. During the past sixty years prior to the survey year, the number of large-sized boats in the locality has increased from 4 to 11 and that of smaller boats from 12 to 30. All of these 30 boats are privately owned and indicate greater fishing activity and larger holding of equipment. Though no quantitative estimate of the increase in fishing nets during the above period is possible, it may be safely said that individual holdings of nets also increased in proportion to the increase in the number of boats.

8.13 As regards other assets, the increase has been mainly in the direction of construction of residential houses and pucca wells. About 90% of the houses are of a permanent type, at present; there being no such houses prior to the 20's. Similarly, families

who settled at Tambaldeg during the earlier period got drinking water from Kutcha wells or ponds. ^{At present out} Of a total of 60 wells recorded in the village records as being in Tambaldeg in 1954-55, 15 are pucca wells.

8.14 A significant addition to the above assets, has been the shares of the cooperative society formed by the fishermen 6 years prior to the date of the survey, ^{i.e.} in 1948. From 178 in 1948, the membership has risen to 248 in 1954-55. It is reported that ^{almost} all the fishing families are members of the society.

8.15 Sea-fishing is essentially a collective occupation requiring the cooperation of number of persons, working as a team. The Rapan companies, that is, teams of fishermen fishing near the shore with huge dragnets owned, operated and repaired collectively, can be ^{called} typed as cooperative associations whereas off-shore fishing by teams of four or six fishermen from a single boat, can be called joint fishing, the nets being owned individually and the owner of the boat getting a larger share for the use of his boat. The formation of new Rapan companies in the 20's, increased off-shore fishing activity as denoted by the increased number of smaller-sized boats and the formation of the cooperative society mentioned above, may all be interpreted as signs of a continuous economic growth of the locality.

8.16 The diversion in the occupational pattern, referred to earlier, brings out the fact that the fishermen have taken to ^{other} secondary occupations like teaching and service in the Police ^{Dept} and ^{the} Port Trust ^{in Bombay}. This has been possible mainly due the spread of education during the above period. The few schooling ^{going} children of the early settlers had to attend the Full Primary School No.1 of Mithbav, about two miles away from Tambaldeg.

In step with spread of education in the village, the attitude of the Gabits towards education has also undergone a significant change. At present there is a full-fledged fisheries school in the locality. The school was established by popular demand in 1947 and imparts technical instruction on subjects pertaining to the occupation of fishing in addition to full-primary school subjects. The expenses of constructing the school building were borne by the residents of the locality.

The Community :

8.17 The Gabits ^{claim to} belong to one of the major castes of the Hindu ~~religion~~, namely the Marathas. The community fell apart from the parent caste on account of its gradual drift from agriculture, which was conventionally held to be the most honourable vocation, towards fishing. The occupation of fishing necessitated living nearer the sea. It was also totally different operationally, in addition to being hard, unclean and insecure. As distinct from agriculture again, fishing called for collective effort and mutual cooperation, resulting in the community developing a social structure of its own. Though the Gabit community has retained certain principal religious characteristics of the parent caste, it has emerged as a distinct community socially and economically, through the centuries.

8.18 It was reported that four Gabit families were brought to Mithbav from a place called ^{Mithmumbri} ~~Mumbri~~, a village 7 miles to the north, by ~~the~~ local dignotaries, mainly Brahamins, who held large areas of land nearer the sea. The four families were domiciled in the locality, called the Kond at present, then inhabited by

Brahmins. As noted earlier, the principal purpose in inviting the Gabits was to procure a steady supply of beach manure for the coconut grooves, the only crop that could grow in the sandy lands near the sea. It was estimated that there were about 125 Gabit families at Mithbav, 60 years ago.

8.19 The increase in the number of families has been due, in addition to the increase in resident population, to a certain extent to relatives and acquaintances migrating to Mithbav in search of better fishing grounds. The sea-shore at Mithbav was nearly one and a half mile in length and could make the absorption of the immigrants possible. These immigrant families came from places around Mithbav, like Khavane, Kochara, Kere extending upto Vengurla in the south.

8.20 The Gabit community is localised in the southern parts of the District of Ratnagiri, along the coast between Devagad Taluka in the north and the Goa border in the south. To the north of Devgad, the occupation of fishing is carried on by communities like Kharvi, Hetkari and Bhandari, exogamous to the Gabit community.

8.21 It was reported that there was a local caste-Panchayat at Tambaldeg that used to direct the social behaviour of the residents. The locality was split up into three wadis, each Wadi having a committee of the elders, settling the disputes within the particular wadi. Offences of a minor nature, small thefts, immoral behaviour and quarrels used to be settled by the Panchayat by fining the miscreants. The penalties were in the nature of either a cash fine of 2 to 5 rupees to be offered to the temple, a minor religious observance or giving meals to Brahmins.

When the disputes were between two or more wadis, it was a practice to invite the elders of Morve, the Gabit locality on the southern bank of the river-estuary and belonging^{to} the village Hindale, to consider and terminate the dispute. There were not, however, any traces of the panchayat during the Survey year.

8.22 The importance of the caste Panchayat was reported to be fast diminishing during the 30's, simultaneously with the gradual increase in migration to and contact with Bombay. During this period, the tendency to take the disputes to the village police patil or the Taluka place of Devgad, increased. Since 1941, all minor disputes are being referred to the Gram Panchayat of Mithav. It may be noted here that the ~~present village~~^{Gram} Panchayat has a Gabit member, since its inception.

8.23 Marriage practices of the Gabit community conform to those of the parent Maratha caste. Marriage relationships are contracted between families having different surnames, those having the same surnames, being considered blood-relations. There are no sub-communities in Gabits, all being considered as one and endogamous.

8.24 Till the 40's, the custom of paying 'Dyas', was observed. According to the custom, the bridegroom had to pay a sum of 50 rupees to the bride's father, before the marriage ceremony. The custom is reported to have given way to a joint sharing of marriage expenses by both parties. In certain instances, it was reported that following the customs of advanced castes, lump sums by way of dowry, are being taken at present.

The tendency to offer dowries, in cases where the bride-groom is holding a secure job at Bombay, is said to be increasing.

8.25 Marriage relationships are contracted between Gabit communities from all places in the above mentioned regions, more prominent among ^{them} ~~their~~ being Devgad, Vijaydurg, Kochara, Malvan and Vengurla. The Muhurta or the auspicious day and time on which the marriage is to take place is decided by a Brahmin priest, who also performs the marriage ceremony. The usual fee charged by the priest was rupees five. It was reported ^{Some ten years back} that the priest demanded ~~a higher fee~~ ^{Rs-10 to Rs-15} because of increased cost of living ~~some ten years back~~, whereupon the Gabits began performing the ceremony themselves by consulting books. The Brahmin priests now charge only 5 rupees only.

8.26 The community, not being one of the original resident communities, had no significant part or share in the religious life of the village, manifest mainly through the annual celebrations of the village ^{diety} ~~duty~~. The only duty that was entrusted to a Gabit family was to fix the diety's flag on the flag staff. It was reported that, the Shetye family, one of the ^{original} village dignitaries was sanctioned a piece of land by the temple, for bearing the expenses of entertaining the Gabits to a liquor party. There has been no occasion to perform this duty as the annual celebrations of the village diety have been suspended for the last 25 years. It was reported, however, that in 1950, the Gabits took part in the annual celebrations, held in that year.

8.27 The Gabits have three important religious festivals, the Ganesh Chaturthi, Narali Purnima and the Nam-Saptaha. The Ganesh Chaturthi is a common festival of the entire village, including the Gabit community. It occurs in the month of

September, one of the rainy months, when sea-fishing is negligible or at a standstill. The fishermen, like others in the village celebrate it on an individual family level, almost every household having its own idol of the God.

8.28 The Narali-Purnima, or the full-moon day of the month of *Shraavan*, occurring in August, has a special significance to the fishermen. The day marks the beginning of the year's fishing season. Though actual rapan and off-shore fishing starts by the beginning of October, it is from the day of the Narali Purnima that the sea is considered to be safe for navigation. It is said that the ~~the~~ initial force of the monsoons, raising gales and storms at sea, get spent up by then. The fishermen worship the sea on that day with offerings of thread and coconuts.

8.29 The third important celebration is the Nam-Saptaha, or the seven-day worship of the God Vithala falling in the month of March. This is entirely a community celebration. There is a lull in rapan fishing during this month. The festival of Holi also occurs in this month, when many of those ~~who are~~ settled at Bombay, visit the village for a brief period.

8.30 The Nam-Saptaha, ^{was} ~~used to be~~ celebrated by all the 3 Wadis at Tambaldeg, ~~Separately~~, till recently. The celebrations were carried on for a period of 10 to 15 years and were stopped. It is now carried in only by the central wadi, the other two wadis participating. It is reported that the celebrations cost six to seven hundred rupees annually. The funds are raised by collecting house-to-house contributions. Every house hold, working in the village, contributes Rs.3/- whereas those, who are employed

at Bombay, contribute Rs.5/- per household. Nearly two-thirds of the funds are collected from the latter source.

8.3) The celebrations take the form of worshipping the god by singing devotional songs, Bhajans, every day of the week. The clay idols of the God cost Rs.20/-. A pendal is erected at a cost of Rs.125 to 150. About two hundred rupees are spent for providing refreshments to the local and visiting Bhajani Mandalis, ^{belonging to other castes also} ~~or groups of persons, singing the Bhajans.~~ There are also expenses of worships. On the eighth day there is a Mahapuja and a Satyanarayan. The day is celebrated by staging a drama at night either by persons belonging to the Gabits community or by artist from distant villages, invited for the purpose. This item alone is said to cost about 150 to 200 rupees.

8.32 In comparison to agriculture, the fishing occupation is a more hazardous and uncertain occupation. Though loss of life is rare, the occupation has its own accidents and ailments, like minor cuts and injuries and ^{periodical sicknesses} ~~diseases~~ due to exposure to sun, wind and water. Off-shore fishing requires pitching of nets in mid-sea, resulting in the nets either drifting away or getting damaged or torn. The preparation of nets is itself a slow and laborious process. In addition to these difficulties, the occupation is uncertain in the sense ^{that the} ~~the~~ catch is often extremely small. The chance factor plays a very important role in the matter of volume of fish caught.

8.33 The above factors appear to have resulted in a closer knitting of the community. In in-community social behaviour, the Gabit is tolerant and cooperative. He shares his extreme dependence on sea, along with other members. His cooperative nature may be indicated by the following instances. 6 out of 10

Rapan companies, have a sort of pension scheme under which the widow of a deceased member gets half a share of the daily catch, by contributing towards the nets of company but without actively participating in actual fishing. It may be mentioned here that the four Rapan companies not having such a scheme, are non-Gabit (Maratha) companies. They ^{Gabits} cooperate in the preparations of nets, it being accepted that it would take a very long time for a single person to prepare a whole net-piece. The arrangement is in fact a mutual exchange of labour, each helping the other in the preparation of nets. Their attachment to the community is manifest in their preference shown to Gabit tailors and grocers, the latter reporting absence of any bad debts.

8.34 The community is also dependent on other communities of the village as it is on nature. It produces only part of its necessities of food and have to depend on others for the main staples like cereals, ^{and chillies &} spices, tea and sugar, kerosene and tobacco etc. Fish, being a fast perishing commodity, has only a limited time-value, the price falling away quickly as time passes. Fisher women, who mainly do the selling of fish have to go all over Mithbav and other adjacent villages selling fish for cash or paddy. The Gabit, therefore behaves politely and ^{subserviently} tolerantly with other castes in the village. This ^{subservience} tolerance is all the more significant, in the context of his independent occupation and place of residence, quite away from other communities of the village.

Fishing techniques :

8.35 The occupation of fishing is carried ^{on} in a variety of

ways at Mithbav, depending upon the season, the fishing group and the type of fishing gear used. The type, size and quantity of fish also differ with certain specific methods. These methods are hereditary and have undergone little change during the recent past.

8.36 The fishing season commences from October onwards and lasts till the end of May. During this season, fishing is mainly done in sea though a little creek-fishing is undertaken during slack months like February and May. There are three important methods of sea-fishing done during this period. These are (1) Inshore Drag-net or Rapan fishing; (2) Drift net or Nhayi fishing and (3) Budi^{or} fishing by stationery nets. The types of creek-fishing done mainly during the four monsoon months from June to September are (1) Lift-net or Yend fishing and (2) Cast or throw-net or Shendi fishing.

Rapan or Inshore Dragnet fishing:

8.37 This method is used near the shore only, the method consisting of casting a huge dragnet within a distance of 3500-4000 feet^{from the shore} and gradually hauling it in. About 25 to 40 persons are required to operate the dragnet, according to variations in its size. The average length of the net is about 1600 to 1800 feet, exclusive of two thick ropes, 2400 to 3000 feet long, attached to each side^{of the dragnet} for the purpose of pulling ~~the~~^{it} net in. At the centre, the net is 35 feet broad and tapers to 12 feet at both the extreme ends. The sizes and specifications of the net-pieces that form the dragnet are given in the table below:-

Table 8.3 Sizes of net pieces of a dragnet.

Position of the net pieces	Size of mesh	No. of net pieces	Length of each net-piece	Breadth or height of each net piece	Average cost per net-piece (New) Rupees.
Central piece	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	6	21'	30' to 35'	100 to 125'
First lateral	1"	6	21'	24' to 30'	80 to 100
Second lateral	$1\frac{1}{5}$ "	20	30'	16' to 24'	60 to 75
Tail piece	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	16	45'	12' to 16'	30 to 40

8.38 At each end of the net, a length of bamboo stick, measuring 12' is attached in order to ensure the vertical position of the net while it is pulled in. Another device used is to tie small pieces of Devdar wood, called floaters, to the rope passing through the upper ^{edge} ~~end~~ of the net, and lead sinkers to the rope running through the bottom end. The sinkers keep the net properly immersed. To the bamboo stick at each end is tied a strong thick rope, 2400 to 3000 feet long on either side. The wooden floaters and lead sinkers cost Rs.100/- approx. The lengths of rope require 20-25 maunds of coir costing Rs.250/- to 300/-. The ropes are prepared by the fishermen and are estimated to cost about 500 rupees, inclusive of labour. It is estimated that a new average sized dragnet or Rapan costs about Rs.4750 to 5000.

8.39 Rapan equipment necessarily includes a large sized boat, without which Rapan fishing is not possible. The boat is used to take the net to sea, cast it in water and bring the other end of the rope to the shore. The basal part of the hull of the boat consists of a canoe, ^{dug out} ~~drag~~net from the trunk of a mango tree ^{To the sides of this} mainly, as other trees of the required size are not available/dug

out canoes are rebatted and secured, vertical side-planks made from Undi trees. The Undi wood is reported to have contents of oil and as such is highly water-repellent and durable. The boat is 30 to 40 feet in length and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, with displacement of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 tons i.e. 35 to 40 bags each weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. The boat has an out-rigger equipment, consisting of two curved poles, preferably of Undi wood, tied to the waist of the boat at one end and to a wooden float at the other. The distance between the ^{poles} ^{across} ~~poles~~ tied ~~across~~ the waist of the boat is 18 to 20 feet and decreases slightly to 13 to 16 feet at the *distal* ends where the float is attached. The out-rigger equipment is attached to only ^{to} ~~only~~ ^{to} one side and extends 14 to 16' feet from the boat. The light wooden float, called the *ulandi*, is prepared of light Pangara wood, so as to keep it floating. The out-rigger arrangement is attached mainly to maintain the balance of the boat. Boats of all size, the largest used for Rapan fishing and described above, the medium sized used in drift-net fishing and the smallest, used in creek fishing possess out-rigger equipment.

8.40 All boats at Mithbav have been built locally. When the construction of a new boat is contemplated, members of the Rapan company jointly tour the countryside in search of ^a tree of the required length and ^{girth} ~~thickness~~. After the purchase, the cutting and clearing of the trunk is done by the fishermen ^{themselves} ~~only~~. The trunk is seasoned by burying it on the seashore, in salt water for a period of six months. Two or three carpenters, local or brought from nearby villages, are engaged for digging out the

canoe and rebetting the side planks. All assistance required by the carpenters is provided by the fishermen. A large-sized boat of the type used for Rapan-fishing, costs on an average, Rs.1000 to 1400, by way of materials and wages paid to the carpenters. It was estimated that the labour rendered by the fishermen, amounts to that of the carpenter; the proportionate cost-allocation of the boat being 50% materials, 25% wages to carpenter, 25% labour rendered by the fishermen. The last cost is not taken into account while estimating the value of the boats.

8.4) The operation of Rapan fishing consists of loading the net and ropes on the boat, ^{taking} ~~taken~~ them ⁱⁿ to sea, casting these in water and lastly pulling the net to the shore. One end of the lateral - ropes is held by a member on the shore. The boat is operated by 9 to 10 persons, 5 rowing, and one steering the boat and the rest, leaving out rope and casting the net in water. The boat goes straight not into the sea till it exhausts one of the lateral rope-lengths attached to ^{one end of} the net. It then takes a sharp turn and the casting of the net begins. The net is cast in a semi-circular curve. After all the net is cast into the sea, the boat heads straight for the shore. It requires about an hour for this operation. As soon as the boat reaches the shore with the terminal end of the second rope, the hauling of the Rapan commences. It requires about 15 to 20 persons on each side to haul the net in. The pulling in is done foot-by-foot and takes about 3 hours. The fish, caught in the net or pushed ~~in~~ by it is then ^{hauled} ~~brought~~ to the beach and is sorted. Fish of larger sizes is sold by auction to waiting traders. The smaller fish is then divided according to the number of members of the Rapan company and the ^{the} ~~member~~ of casual helpers, the

former getting a full share and latter getting half a share, as returns for his labour. In the case of one Rapan company, it was reported that 5 additional shares were kept aside as the shares of the Rapan, the money realised being utilised for repairs etc. In another case, one additional share was kept aside as the share of God, and a Satya-narayan worship celebrated out of the ^{Sale} proceeds of sale that share. The auction proceeds are pooled separately and are used for the repairs of the boat and the net, construction and repairs to the storage hut and refreshments.

8.42 Periodically, once in two months, the net is treated with lime and augal in order to make it water-resistant and durable. It is first boiled in lime water and dried. ^{Augal Na} A coating of ~~the~~ thick liquid prepared by boiling the barks of Ain trees found in nearby jungles is then given by dipping the net in the solution and drying it. The Rapan net is daily inspected and repaired whenever there are major damages. All members must help in repair and mending work, those absenting themselves without reason, being fined.

8.43 Rapan operation is undertaken for two distinct purposes. Firstly, it is done daily in the morning for fresh fish meant for the local market. It starts at 4 a.m. in the morning and is complete^d by about 8.30 or 9 a.m. The catch is of a mixed type and is mainly sold fresh in the local or surrounding markets. The second purpose is mainly commercial, when large shoals of mackerels, sardines and the like begin to appear towards the middle of November. The more important types, from the commercial point of view, that are caught during the intensive Rapan operations are the Ghol (Jew-fish), The Shengala (Cat-fish), the Bangda (Indian Mackerel), the Padwa (Sardines) and the Tarli (Oil Sardines). During the months of November

December, April and May, more intensive Rapan activity is undertaken, as many as 4 operations being reported on a single day. The larger variety (the first three types) is partly cured and partly salted and dried. The last two varieties namely the Pedwa and Tarli are smaller varieties and are used to prepare Kuta or beach-manure. The beach-manure, prepared by drying the fish for a period of 5 to 6 days and is stored in the Mangar or Storage-but. It is then sold to cultivators, who carry it away in carts. The sale proceeds are shared by the members ^{twice during} ~~at the~~ _{once in March and once in June} ~~end of the year~~. These proceeds constitute the major portion of a Rapan company's income.

The Organisation :

8.44 The Rapan company or mandali, the local name given to organisations formed for inshore drag-net fishing, is an association of about 30 persons who jointly contribute to the capital requirements of the occupation, carry on the operations and share the total proceeds.

8.45 In its structural and operational aspect the Rapan company come nearest to a cooperative society. The members contribute in kind, namely net-pieces, yarn, ^{Ain bark} ~~oil tank~~, fuel etc., that are required to prepare ^{and repair} the dragnet, ^{and keep it in good repair} ~~and to repair it~~. As explained earlier, the members operate the net jointly and divide the daily ~~axk~~ catch of fresh fish and the annual cash balances out of sales of fresh fish auctioned on the beach and sale of beach manure. All expenses for repairs and replacements, excluding replacement of net pieces, of the dragnet and the boat are done out of the daily auction sales which are pooled. The company also raises loans when the capital requirements are large as

in the case of the building of a new boat, the debt being repaid in instalments, out of the Rapan company's cash balances. When a member intends to leave the company he is given a cash amount varying from 60 to 100 rupees ^{as} ~~has~~ his share in the company's capital. No Rapan company, operating at Mithbav, however, has been registered. Though no regular registers are maintained, record of work and share of each member, auction receipts, credit transactions etc. are kept in a note book.

8.46 The number of members of a Rapan company varies mainly according to the size of the dragnet, the requirements of net-pieces and labour for repair work. Where the membership is inadequate, casual labour is recruited daily for dragging-in the net. Persons, who are financially unable to become a member of a Rapan company or ^{are} unwilling to do so, are generally available for dragging the net, for one half of the ^{full} share of fresh fish received by a regular member. It was reported that anybody desiring work, could lend a hand while the dragnet is being dragged in and would get ^{half} a share for his labour.

8.47 A member, wishing to be admitted into a Rapan company has to pay a cash fee, ranging from Rs.35 to Rs.100, in addition to proportionate kind contributions in net pieces, barks of Ain, fuel, yarn etc. as required to be given by a regular member.

The fee for admission may vary according to the need of the ^{particular} Rapan Company. It was reported that the cash fee, in effect, amounted to only a quarter of the ^{notional value that can be put in the share} ~~interest~~ acquired by the in-coming member. The new member has to begin working with the company and his admission fee may be recovered from his share in the annual cash share. Instances have been reported where such recoveries have been stretched over 3 years. As a rule, the older members are aware of the pecuniary conditions of other fishermen and are ^{potent} ~~tolerent~~ in the matter of recoveries.

8.48 All the 6 Rapan companies ^{formed} ~~operated~~ ^{and} by Gabits, operating on the Mithbav beach, reported a pension arrangement in the event of the death of a member, without any adult male survivors, who ^{could} may be taken up by the Rapan company in place of the deceased one. For a period of five years after the death, the Rapan company pays half a share to the family of the deceased member, on two conditions. Firstly, the wife or the family of the deceased member should give the prescribed contribution of net pieces, ^{bark} ~~bank~~ of Ain trees, fuel, yarn etc. annually like ^{other} a living members. Secondly the women ^{of the deceased member's family} folk should participate in that part of the Rapan company's work that is done by women, namely spreading, drying and collecting beach-manure, etc. One company reported that a member, desiring to leave the company is paid Rs-50/- as his share in the ownership of the company's assets. The company pays the amount to the wife of a deceased member also at the end of five years after the death, when the pension scheme terminates.

8.49 After the catch has been brought ashore, it is sorted into three parts according to size. Large fish is auctioned on the spot to buyers who are mainly local Gabits or Gabit from Mumbri, a village ~~is~~ 9 miles to the north of Mithbav across the country. ~~In all the 6 cases,~~ The highest bidder got the lot auctioned. Three of these ^{companies} however, insisted on their own rock-bottom prices, the members sharing the lot in the event of the highest quotation falling lower than their expectations. 5 of the six Rapan companies ^{reported that a member} could take part in the biddings and purchase the fish. The remaining company, however, prohibited any member from taking part in the auctions.

8.50 The remaining four Rapan companies reported a different practice of selling the catch. All of these are non-Gabit

organisations, ^{operated} 3 managed by Marathas and 1 by Ehandaris. It should be noted that all the members are mainly cultivators. They have organised the Rapan companies, not ^{as a regular occupation,} ~~for any direct benefits~~ but in order to procure their own supply of beach manure. None of the members, do any other type of fishing, nor do they sell fish like fisher-women. After the catch is landed, an intending buyer ^{can} had to select fish required by him, the price being quoted by the company. If no agreement could be reached by the transacting parties, the company collects the fish into different heaps and sells by auction. A part of the catch is taken home for consumption. The drag-nets owned by these companies were smaller in size and consequently the volume of fish caught was also smaller.

8.51 In an organization like the Rapan company, where a number of persons have to work collectively, ^a certain code of discipline as regards behaviour and work becomes necessary. All the companies reported such discipline. In the event of a member absenting himself without reason, he had to pay a fine according to the work from which ^{he} ~~was~~ abstained. A set of fines ^{has} ~~have~~ been evolved, all companies reporting a certain common pattern. Absence ^{while} ~~from~~ putting the boat to sea was fined with 1 anna, ^{while} ~~from~~ loading the net 2 annas, ^{while} ~~from~~ mending the net 2 to 3 annas per hour, absence for a whole day being fined with 1 to 2 rupees in different companies. In the case of bad behaviour some companies laid a fine raising from 4 annas to 2 to 5 rupees. One company reported that a misbehaving member was asked to offer a coconut and other ^{offerings} ~~things~~ to the village deity, by way of a fine. This amounted to the members' ^{admission} admission of guilt and asking an apology.

8.52 Contributions of net pieces and other materials are called for three to four times during the season at ~~an~~ intervals of 2 to 2½ months. Excepting two, all companies reported that delay in giving net pieces [⊙] were given. All fines were noted and deductions were effected at the time of sharing the cash balances.

8.53 The Rapan company provides a steady source of employment and income to members as well as non-members. The preparation of beach-manure is made possible due to its large-sized catches only. In addition, it also affords employment and earning possibilities to the women folk of the members, who sell the fish in the village and nearby markets and ^{make} ~~earn~~ a small profit. The Rapan company has greater capital resources compared to those of an individual. Four out of the ten companies own pieces of land on the beach for construction of the storage hut. All companies have a large sized boat, a storage hut and ^a drag-net. Being a collective body, individual risks such as loss or theft of nets, absense from work due to illness, death etc. are spread over and minimised.

8.54 Of the 10 Rapan companies at Mithbav, 6 belong to Gabits and 4 to Marathas and Bhandaris. 2 out of the 6 Gabit companies are operated by fishermen from the locality of Morve, a locality belonging to the neighbouring village of Hündale and just across the estuary. They operate their dragnets at the southern-most tip end of the Tambaldeg beach. The auction sales of fresh fish caught by them as well as preparation ^{and sale} of beach manure takes place ~~also~~ at Tambaldeg. The majority of members belong to Morve. There are 3 Gabits from Tambaldeg, as members in both.

8.55 Of the 4 non-Gabit Rapan companies 3 belong to Marathas and one to Bhandaris. Two of these, one Maratha and

⊙ was fined with half a day's share of fresh fish. The two companies reported that the whole share was withheld till the net pieces

and one Bhandari, operate at the Tambaldeg beach. All the members are cultivators, who, by virtue of the nearness the beach to their locality ^{(namely} Dagarewadi belonging to Marathas and Shegul wadi belonging to Bhandaris) have taken to fishing for procuring their own requirements of beach manure.

8.56 The remaining two Maratha Rapan companies are operated by those residing at Katwanwadi, a locality on the north-western ^{extremity} outskirts of Mithbav and separated from the village by a range of hills jutting into the sea. -These two operate their dragnets at the beach of Kunakeshwar village, across a small streamlet to the north. ~~Both ^{and} these companies are operated by cultivators providing beach manure to members, who are cultivators.~~

8.57 It may be noted here that according to the opinion of the Gabits, the members of all the 4 non-Gabit Rapan companies, are not efficient in fishing, have no other fishing gear than a Rapan dragnet and do not know how to take proper care of their equipment. The latter, however, clearly maintain that they are not fishermen in the real sense and that none of the members or their womenfolk go about selling fish like Gabit women, suggesting thereby the ^{low} ~~hard~~ness of the occupation ^{as compared} to cultivation.

8.58 The following tables present the structural and operational aspect of all the 10 Rapan companies functioning at Mithbav. Table ^{8.4} I gives the castes, the dates of formation and membership details. It may be noted that the oldest Rapan company (No.9) was formed by non-Gabits. The first two Gabit Rapan companies came to be formed in 1890 and 1900. Initial membership of these two was greater than the remaining 3 non-Gabit companies which were formed by about this time. The formation of the remaining four Rapan companies took place in 1920's. This

related development was apparently due to two reasons. Firstly, the Gabits were principally engaged ~~in~~ independently in the occupation, each person having his individual equipment of fishing gear. It was also true, that as in the present times, anybody wishing to lend a hand in dragging the dragnet could do so for half a share in the day's catch. Secondly, whereas the non-Gabits were all along situated near the sea, the Gabits began moving to the present locality only at the turn of the century. It was only after the gradual filling up of the locality that new Rapan companies came to be formed.

8.59 Four Rapan companies (Nos. 2, 4, 9, 10) reported that membership was inadequate. This inadequacy was, however, not seriously felt, in day-to-day operations, as daily labour was available from the community itself. Of the total of ~~157~~¹⁴⁷ Gabit fishermen, the Rapan companies reported an aggregate membership of 122. Another seven were reported as permanent helpers. These fall into a category in between regular members and casual workers. Whereas a casual worker is given only $\frac{1}{2}$ a share for his labour, even this falling to $\frac{1}{4}$ th or $\frac{1}{5}$ th when fish is plentiful, a permanent helper gets his $\frac{1}{2}$ share regularly as well as half a share in the distribution of cash balances, ~~also~~. He, however, helps in all operations connected with Rapan fishing, namely, loading and pushing the boat, mending the net and dragging it in. In all respects he is a member, except that he does not pay the cash admission fee and contribute the net pieces and other material to the company. On account of non-payment of this, he foregoes half a share.

8.5
8.60 Table II gives the capital structure of the Rapan companies. The first two companies, operated by Gabits from the

locality of Morve across the estuary, reported purchase ~~of~~ *and* ownership of land on the beach. Similarly the last two companies Nos.9 and 10, both belonging to the distant Katwanwadi of Mithbav and both operating their dragnets on the beach of the adjacent village of Kunakeshwar, have also reported purchase and ownership of land on that beach. Land required for construction of the storage hut has neither been purchased nor leased by all the 6 Rapan companies, belonging to and operating on the Tambaldeg beach. *Their huts are erected on the land belonging to a regular member*

8.61 Three companies have two boats each. They are used alternately for fishing. In all the cases one of the two is an old boat, which has been used for more than 20 years. Both the companies operated by Gabits from Morve, have one small boat each, specially kept to carry members of the two Rapan companies and their womenfolk across the estuary. The small boat, shown as owned by one Rapan company of Tambaldeg (No.4), is actually the basal hull, purchased for building a larger boat.

8.62 All the Rapan companies reported ownership of only one dragnet each. The contribution of net pieces vary according to the size of the net as also according to the number of members. There are no standard specifications as regards the length of a dragnet. It therefore happens that the dragnets vary in length, each maintaining the original length and demanding contribution of net pieces in order to attain this length. It may be seen from Table IV, ^{8.7} that not only the contributions of net pieces vary according to size of membership but also with the size of dragnet. The contribution per member in the first Rapan company as well as in the eighth Rapan company is *30 feet* whereas the membership is 33 and 20 respectively. The value of net pieces also changes with the actual sizes of *mesh* demanded.

The figures of current value of dragnets have been taken as reported and not on ~~a scientific~~ ^{any accepted} basis of estimation.

In this context, it may be noted that on an average, the net-pieces, contributed by each member annually, together ~~from~~ ^{form} about 1/3rd the total net i.e. the dragnet gets renewed every fourth year, no net piece being more than 3 years old.

8.63 The income and expenditure figures are given in Table ~~III~~ ^{8.6}. The income figure given in Col.15 is net and constitutes the value of share of fresh fish and actual cash share received by members, individually. As year end balances were not reported in many cases, and as the ^{reported figures of} auction proceeds were also not dependable, it was not possible to compute the net income figure of each Rapan company for that year. For the last four companies it has been computed by adding the per member receipts of fresh fish, ^{value of} ~~and~~ beach manure and the auction process and subtracting from the total, the expenses reported.

8.64 The expenses denote those incurred by the Rapan company from action proceeds i.e. funds commonly owned. They do not include contributions of net-pieces and materials from members. Table ~~below~~ ^{8.8} gives a percentage distribution of income and expenditure items of Gabit and non-Gabit companies.

(~~Table on page 23~~

Table 8.8.

percentage distribution of income and expenditures of Gabit and Non-Gabit
Koper Companies.

Japan Companies	Fresh Fish Col.3	Total cash shared or beach manure shared. Col.5	Value of beach manure. Col.8	Total Net Income Col.9	Repairs and current expenses					Total expenses	Propor- tion of expenses to income.
					Boat	Hut	materi- als per .net	other expen- ses	Refre- sh- ments		
Totals for all companies	20920	35870	25140	57555	855	840	1200	765	1565	5225	9.08
Gabit companies (1 to 6)	94.86	83.44	76.37	86.48	67.84	61.31	72.50	62.09	60.09	67.75	7.11
Non-Gabit Companies (7 (7 to 10)	5.14	16.56	23.63	13.52	32.16	38.69	27.50	37.91	39.91	32.25	21.65

- 29 -

Rapan Companies

8.4 duration membership etc of the Rapan companies.

Serial No.	Residence of members	Caste of members	Place of operation	Date of formation	No. of original members	No. of present members	No. of permanent helpers	No. of families receiving pension	Fees for admitting new member	Remarks
1	Morve (Hindale)	Cabit	Tambaldeg (Mithbav)	1925	27	33	-	-	100	
2	"	"	"	1928	26	29	-	-	100	5 shares reserved for net
3	Tambaldeg (Mithbav)	"	"	1922	22	30	-	-	60	
4	"	"	"	1890	45	20	-	-	100	
5	"	"	"	1900	35	32	3	1	100	
6	"	"	"	1928	21	30	4	1	50	1 share reserved for the net
7	Shegul-wadi (Mithbav)	Bhandari	"	1905	25	29	-	-	40	
8	Dagarwadi (Mithbav)	Maratha	"	1900	30	20	5	-	40	
9	Katwan (Mithbav)	"	Kunakeshwar	1850	--	31	4	-	40	
10	"	"	"	1910	20	17	9	-	35	

271

57
214

209
5

62
5
57

Table 8.5

Capital Structure of Rapan Companies

Sr. No.	Area Land owned A G	Pre-sent value	Boat (Large)	Pre-sent value	Boat (small)	Pre-sent value	Storage hut	Pre-sent value	Drag-net	No. of pieces	Pre-sent value	Ropes	Pre-sent value	Vess-als	Pre-sent value	Remarks
1	0-5 $\frac{3}{4}$	50	2	800 1200	1	60	1	500	1	150	4000	10	500	-	-	
2	0-30	300	1	1000	1	70	1	300	1	75	12000	12	600	-	-	
3	-	-	1	800	-	-	1	200	1	90	4000	10	500	-	-	
4	-	-	1	500	1	300	2	150	1	74	2890	10	500	3	250	Small boat for constructing large boat.
5	-	-	2	1000 1000	-	-	2	500	1	58	3580	10	500	2	200	
6	-	-	2	1300 1500	-	-	2	1000	1	70	4085	12	650	2	500	
7	-	-	1	1000	-	-	1	250	1	35	2500	10	400	-	-	
8	-	-	1	800	-	-	1	200	1	30	2000	10	350	-	-	
9	0-38	150	1	1500	-	-	1	500	1	50	3000	10	600	-	-	
10	0-38	300	1	900	-	-	1	250	1	38	1580	10	500	-	-	

Table 8.7 Per-member contribution of net prices etc. in Rapan Companies

Serial No. of Rapan Camps Co.S	Net pieces		Bark of Ain-trees		Yarn		Wood		Coir-ropes		Total Rs.
	Total length feet	Value	Quan- tity seers	Value	Quan- tity seers	Value	Quan- tity mds.	Value	Quan- tity seers	Value	
1	30	70	40	2-8	5	7-8	8	8-0	5	5-0	93
2	32	75	40	2-8	5	7-8	8	8-0	5	5-0	98
3	24	56	40	2-8	5	7-8	4	4-0	4	4-0	74
4	33	75	80	5-0	5	7-8	10	10-0	5	5-0	102-8
5	30	71	60	3-12	5	7-8	6	6-0	5	5-0	93-4
6	24	56	60	3-12	5	7-8	6	6-0	5	5-0	78-4
7	30	54	60	3-12	2½	3-12	10	10-0	5	5-0	76-8
8	30	54	60	3-12	2½	3-12	6	6-0	1	1-0	68-8
9	17	41	60	3-12	4	6-0	6	6-0	1½	1-8	58-4
10	33	60	60	3-12	2½	3-12	6	6-0	1	1-0	74-8

Table 8.6 Reported Income (net) and Expenditure of Rapan Companies (1953-1954)

Sr. No.	Share of fresh fish per member	Total value of fresh fish shared	Share of cash balance per member	Total cash balance (exclusive of expenses)	Value of auction sales	Quantity of beach manure (Khandi)	Value of beach manure	Total net incomes of the company	Repair & current expenditure					Total Repair expenses	Percentage of expenses to income
									Boats	Hut	Materials	Other	Refreshments		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	115	3795	107	3530	600	25	1500	7325	120	75	200	60	300	755	10.31
2	100	2900	200	5800	2000	70	4200	8700	60	100	200	100	250	710	8.16
3	150	4500	125	3750	700	60	3600	8250	100	80	120	40	200	540	6.55
4	200	4000	260	5200	2500	50	3000	9200	75*	60	50*	75	100	360	3.91
5	75	2400	200	6400	2500	75	4500	8800	125*	100	200	100	100	625	7.10
6	75	2250	175	5250	3500	40	2400	7500	100	100	100	100	150	550	7.33
7	5	330	42*	1200	650	20	1200	1815	50	75	70	70	100	365	20.11
8	12	110	45*	900	400	15	900	1150	75	50	60	60	15	260	22.61
9	15	465	90*	2820	400	47	2820	3135	50	100	100	100	200	550	17.54
10	10	170	90*	1020	1000	17	1020	1680	100	100	100	60	150	510	30.36
Total		20920		35870		419	25140	57555	855	840	1200	765	1565	5225	9.08
			*value of share of beach manure						1.49	1.46	2.08	1.33	2.72	9.08	
									*estima- ted.		*estima- ted.				
Gabit companies (1 to 6)		19845		29930		320	19200	49775	580	515	870	475	1100	3540	7.11
Non-Gabit Cos. (7 to 10)		1075		5940	2450	99	5940	7780	275	325	330	290	465	1685	21.65
Proportion to total		5.14		16.56		23.63		13.52	32.16	38.69	27.50	37.91	39.91	32.25	

Note : 1. Col.3 in respect of non-Gabit companies (7 to 10) gives value of fresh fish taken home for consumption only.
 2. Col.4 in respect of non-Gabit companies gives the value of beach manure actually shared and not sold.
 3. Total income (Col.9) of non-Gabit companies (7 to 10) has been computed by adding Col.3, 5 and 6 and deducting Col.15,

345
 1305
 7050
 12900
 57555
 19845
 21055

Compared to Gabit companies, the non-Gabit companies show lower returns and higher costs. One of the reasons for smaller catch is the small size of their dragnets. Secondly, though the non-Gabit Rapans operate during the whole season, they do not operate it as intensively or as regularly as the Gabit companies, the reason being that they undertake fishing only for the supply of beach manure.

8.65 The proportion of expenses to income (net) come to 7.11% on an average, in the case of Gabit companies. In the case of non-Gabit companies it is 21.65 i.e. 3 times greater than the former. This increase is mainly due to the smaller income figure, the expenses actual (as reported), being the same as those of Gabit companies, on an average.

8.66 ~~As mentioned earlier,~~ There is no office arrangements or set of registers where accounts could be maintained. The receipts of daily auctions lie with various members, a note to the effect, being kept in a note book. Often, the Rapan company gives a credit of 2 to 3 days to a trader, who is either a member or a local Gabit woman. The system of keeping the daily cash receipts with different persons appears to be ^{deliberate} ~~willful~~, so that, no single member can use away all the cash resources of the Rapan company. Members, are allowed to use Rapan funds lying with them with the permission of other members of the company and in lieu of ^{this,} ~~apart~~ of their share in the cash balances.

8.67 When the company is ⁱⁿ need of liquid capital of a large ^{magnitude} ~~extent~~ as when construction of a new boat is contemplated, it takes loans from dealers, who are generally, resident Gabits. These loans are in the nature of advance against next years catch.

The company, however, does not undertake ^{any} a binding to sell ^{the} next year's catch. The only understanding is that the dealer or dealers get a priority of purchase at the rate agreed on the spot on any particular day. An interest rate of 2 pice in the rupee i.e. 37½% is charged by the lenders. It may be noted here that loans of the required amount are ^{generally not} ~~secretly~~ available from a single individual. They are collected from a number of persons in small amounts. There is no system of mortgaging the boat or the dragnet for raising the loans.

Budi or Stationery-net Fishing :

8.68 Fishing by stationery gill nets is next in importance to Rapan fishing. Though it is carried on by a group of 5 to 6 persons, it is done ~~individually~~, with individual ownership, responsibility and repairs of nets. Another distinguishing feature of this type of fishing is that it is done offshore and in deep water.

8.69 The net has a 3 to 3½ inch mesh with a thicker thread. Customarily, a length of 60 yards of net is ^{of} prepared which is then attached to a rope of 40 yards at the bottom. The net ~~lines~~ ^{first} thus shortened at the lower end by pleating, takes a fan-like shape with plenty of folds. This arrangement is meant to ensure greater entanglement of the fish as it begins twisting and ~~twisting~~ ^{twisting} as soon as its gills are caught in the mesh. The net being loose, the strain on the net is less when the fish starts twisting in order to free itself. The fins and tail also get entangled as the fish attempts to regain its freedom.

8.70 Two net-lengths of the above length, i.e. 40 yards are attached together to form one net-piece. The breadth is 12 feet all along. A net-piece is estimated to cost ^{about 4.50 /} 25 rupees and lasts from three to four years.

8.71 Budi fishing is done in a depth of 20 to 25 fathoms ^{of water} and as such necessitates going out into the sea to a distance of about 15 miles. A group of 5 to 6 persons, each having 2 or 3 net pieces, tied to a slightly smaller length of individually owned rope, nearly 2" thick carry on this type of fishing. Each fisherman takes his afternoon meal along with

him. The boat goes out by setting sail, the land-breeze taking the fisherman to the required spot in about 3 hours.

8.72 The boat is of a smaller size than the Rapan boat. It is about 20 to 25 feet in length with a depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet. The materials and method of construction are similar to those of a Rapan boat. The cost of construction is estimated at Rs.600/-, exclusive of labour rendered by fishermen. There are 30 such boats at Tambaldeg, the estimated value being Rs.10,500 approx.

8.73 As mentioned earlier, this is ^{an} individual type of fishing, each member getting all the fish caught in his net-pieces, tied side by side with those belonging to others. The owner of the boat, however, is entitled to attach ~~double~~ the number of net-pieces, as a consideration or share of ownership of the boat. In addition, he is also entitled to the livers of all the fish caught. Oil is extracted ^{from} ~~out of~~ these livers and is used for applying to the boat itself. If, however, a large fish is caught, yielding 8 to 10 tins of oil, only half the quantity is given to the owner, ^{of the boat} the other half being sold by the fisherman, in whose net the fish is caught.

8.74 In this type of fishing, the whole net, prepared by tying individual net-pieces of the 5 or 6 fishermen, settles down on the ^{floor} of the sea. Two huge stones are tied to the two ends of the thick rope at the bottom. Smaller stones are also tied to the rope at intervals of 5 to 6 feet. These stones keep the net stationery. To the two ends of the net, floaters are tied to a long thin rope, so that they can be seen on the surface. The actual casting is a skilled job, as at that distance, ^{ie} about 15 miles from the shore, there are no landmarks

for identification. ^{of the place.} The custom is to steer the boat in line with two points of the Sahyadri hill ranges. After the required depth is reached, the net is cast in line with the current of water and wind. The place of casting is decided again with the help of certain rocks or trees to the north or south. There are about 35 fishermen, all elderly persons, who are experienced in fixing this point. Younger fishermen learn the job by experience only.

8.75 The boat returns after casting the net. The trip takes about seven to eight hours. The boat goes out on the following day and after locating the net, drags it aboard the boat and the fishermen collect the fish caught in their net-pieces. Each fishermen puts an identification ^{mark} on fish caught in his net-pieces. This is done by cutting the ^{gills} or fins or tail of the fish. The net is again cast into the sea after collection of fish, either at the same place if the catch is plentiful or at some other place.

8.76 The net is brought back after eight or ten days, for purposes of repairing, washing and recoating. It is washed in sweet water, dried and then given a new coating of ^{anyal} ~~anai~~, liquid prepared by boiling the barks of Ain trees in water.

8.77 The types of fish that are caught by this method are the Shengala (Cat fish), the ~~Mbri~~ (Shark), the Ghol (Jew-fish), the Karbi (Silver-bar fish), the Veen and Nali (Types of ^{sau} sand-fish) etc. These are of a larger-size and are cured and dried by the fishermen at home and sold to traders.

8.78 Often, a different type of net piece, called the wagur net is attached to the above nets. The mesh is about 8" to 10",

the other specifications being the same as those of the Budi nets. This net piece is attached to catch larger sized fish, either straying or pursuing smaller fish. The net piece costs about 18 to 20 rupees and lasts for 4 years. All fishermen own wagur net-pieces.

Nhayi or Drift-net Fishing :

8.79 The Nhayi or drift net fishing is the ^{second} ~~other~~ type of individual fishing carried on at Mithbav. It is also carried on by a group of 5 to 6 persons, each possessing his own net-pieces. These net-pieces are tied together to form the drift net.

8.80 The net has a mesh of 2 to 3 inches, with double thread. As in the case of Budi fishing, a 60 yard length of net is prepared into 40 yards of net piece by tying it to a rope 40 yards long, the net getting plenty of folds, at one end. This arrangement is made to ensure greater entanglement of the fish. Each member of the group has 3 such pieces. A net piece is estimated to cost about 40 rupees and lasts for 5 years.

8.81 As distinct from Budi fishing, the Nhayi fishing is carried on during the darker portion of the night. Another major difference between the two is that whereas the Budi net is stationary, the Nhayi net floats at surface level and drifts along with the boat. For ensuring the vertical position of the net, the rope at the lower end is made of hemp, which becomes heavy when it is lowered in water. The upper rope is made of coir and is comparatively light. In addition, wooden floaters are attached to the upper rope so that the nets floats at surface level. Newer net-pieces are tied nearer the boat end

of the net and older net-pieces are tied to the further end, so that in case of net-pieces getting ^{damaged} ~~scattered~~ or drifting away due to accidents, only old nets should be lost.

8.82 Fishing is done at a depth of 8 to 13 fathoms, at a distance of 4 to 5 miles off the shore. The boat goes out either at 5 O'clock in the afternoon or during the night, so that the time taken to reach the required spot, 2 to 2½ hours by rowing, coincides with the time of casting the net. It was reported that fish is caught at the time ^{of} rising and setting of the sun and the moon. It is said that the salt-contents in sea-water are lowest at these periods rendering the water less luminous so that the fish cannot see the net. After about an hour after casting the net, it is pulled aboard and the fish is collected. When fish is plentiful as many as 4 castings in a single night were reported. The place is changed when there are no fish. The boat returns early in the morning.

8.83 The method of distribution is different than that of Budi fishing. Of the 3 net pieces, owned by each fisherman, 2 are called Shinal or owned ^{net} and one is called Bhag i.e. distributed ^{ones.} All the fish caught in the former goes to the ^{net owning} fisherman whereas all fish caught in the Bhag is collected and distributed. A separate share is laid aside for the boat. It goes to the owner of the boat by way of rent.

8.84 The fish caught by the Mahayi method is of a smaller size compared to that caught by the Budi method. A small part of this fish is sold as fresh, the rest being cured and dried. The types caught by this method are, the Karli (Silver-bar fish),

the Iswan (Seer Fish), the Mori (Shark) the Saranga and the Ehing.

8.85 A variation of the Nhayi type is fishing by Pāse nets, or nets specially meant for catching the Saranga fish, ^{a larger sized variety}. The mesh is larger, with 4" to 5" mesh, and a breadth of 16 feet instead of 12 feet as in Budi and Nhayi. This fishing is done towards the end of April and in May. Each fisherman has 3 such net pieces, 45 feet long, each net piece costing 30-35 rupees. All other operations as well as the method of distribution is the same as those of the Nhayi method.

8.86 The three techniques of fishing described above have been in vogue at Mithbav since the beginning. These are the three types of fishing carried on throughout the fishing season, from October to May. The Nhayi season actually begins in September and comes to an end by December. The Budi season begins from December and extends upto May.

8.87 The table below gives percentage distribution of employment i.e. man-days spent for all the three types of fishing during the survey year, 1954-55.

Table 8.9
percentage Workdays reported by 24 families, persuing all the three types of fishing.

Fishing Techniques	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Rapan	30.5	59.9	84.2	44.9	11.0	9.9	59.3	84.4
Budi	-	3.7	8.6	46.9	89.0	90.1	40.7	15.6
Nhayi	69.5	36.4	7.2	8.2	-	-	-	-
Total	100.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The table brings out the duration of each type of

fishing and the employment it provides to the fishermen. The Nhayi method, starting from September, is in full operation, in October when the regular season begins. Nearly 70% of the month's work is spent in this type, the remaining 30% being spent in Rapan fishing, which commences by the middle of October. The Nhayi operation begins falling off gradually, until February when it is completely stopped. From November onwards the Budi method is adopted on an increasing scale along with Rapan fishing which is also on the increase. The months during which Rapan fishing is heaviest are November and December, months when the Pedwa (Sardines), the Tarli (Oil-Sardines) and the Bangda (Mackerel) appear in large shoals, and April and May, months when the above shoals appear again. Fishing by Budi method is heaviest in the months of January, February, March and April compared to Rapan fishing. The above cycle represents an average normal season of fishing methods and activity, though no two seasons are exactly alike, the seasons for different fishing techniques and activity therein shifting backward or forward by 2 to 4 weeks.

4.88 It was reported that the particular fishing season of 1954-55 was a slack one, activity and catch being estimated at 70 to 75% of an average good season. The relative proportions of activity between different methods, however, hold good, though in absolute figures, the actual work-load given ^{in Table 8-16} below for different techniques and fishing activity appears comparatively low, for the above season.

Table 8.10 Monthwise distribution of work (work days of 24 reporting families)

Fishing Techniques	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total percentage to total
Rapan	104	293	433	199	33	41	237	189	1529 (48.9)
Budi	-	18	44	208	266	374	163	35	1108 (35.5)
Nhayi	237	178	37	36	-	-	-	-	488 (15.6)
Total	341	489	514	443	299	415	400	224	3125
% age to total	10.9	15.7	16.5	14.2	9.5	13.3	12.8	7.1	100.00

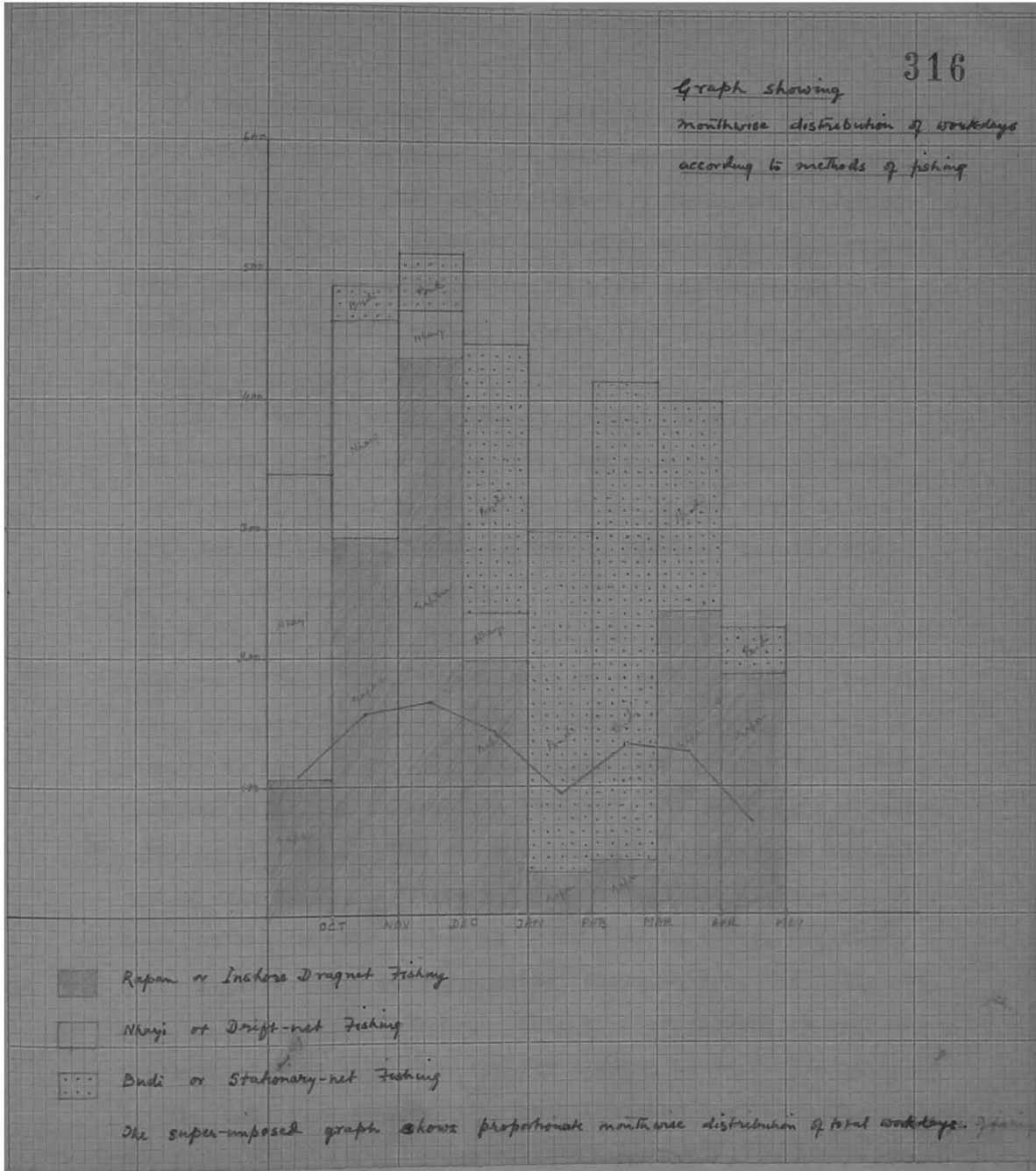
8.89 The actual course of fishing activity during the season can also be seen from the above table. It is highest in the month of December, the months next in order being November and January. The month of February registers a lower volume of fishing activity, which increases in March and April. Fishing is at its lowest in the month of May, when the season itself comes to an end on account of rough seas and storms brought by the south-western monsoons. The season's fishing activity and the course has been brought out in an attached histogram.

8.90 The table given below brings out the relative importance of the 3 major types of fishing from the point of view of work-days and returns.

Table 8.11 Total work-load and catch in the three types of fishing (24 reporting families)

Methods of Fishing	Total work load		Total Catch	
	No. of days	% age to total	Value	% age to total
Rapan	1529	48.9	1076-10-0	39.9
Budi	1108	35.5	1274-11-0	47.4
Nhayi	488	15.6	343- 2-0	12.7
Total	3125	100.00	2694- 7-0	100.00

Graph showing
 monthwise distribution of workdays
 according to methods of fishing



partly consumed at home and partly sold fresh. It is very small in volume and is not commercially important.

8.91 Whereas Rapan fishing gives the maximum employment 48.9% of the total workload, the catch amounts to only 39.9% of the total. The Pudi method, however, shows comparatively higher %age of catch, 47.4% of the total with only 35.5 of the total labour. The Nhayi method is also less remunerative compared to the Budi method, showing 12.7 % of total catch for 15.6% of total labour.

Other Types of Fishing :

8.93 The two other types of fishing, namely the yend fishing and fishing by throw-nets, are done during the rainy season and in the creek (estuary) formed by the mouth of the river ~~forming the northern boundary of Mithbav~~, between the villages, Mithbav and Hindale.

8.94 The Yend or Ghoga net is rectangular in shape 20 feet long and 12 to 15 feet broad, with half an inch mesh. The net costs 20 rupees and lasts about 3 years. It requires four persons to operate it, two holding the net in waist deep water, and the other two chasing the fish into the net from a distance of 20 to 30 yards. The chasers hold a thin coir-rope ^{laid} ~~hid~~ with green palm leaves. These palm leaves sparkle in water. When this garland of palm leaves is moved fast in water, the fish gets frightened and ^{runs} ~~begins running~~, straight into the Ghoga net, held by two other fishermen. This type of fishing is done at the beginning of high tide and for about 3 hours. The catch is divided into five shares, the four fishermen getting a share each, the fifth share going to the owner of the net. The catch is partly consumed at home and partly sold fresh. It is very small in volume and is not commercially important.

8.95 A variation of yend fishing is carried on by a smaller net, 15 feet long 6 feet broad, with an extremely small mesh. It is operated by two persons who drag the net and suddenly raise it out of water. This net is used to catch tiny sized prawns only, which are dried and sold locally. The catch, which is very small in volume, is divided into three parts, the third part going to the owner of the net.

8.96 In throw-net fishing, the net is cone-shaped and is operated by the owner of the net. The net is 10 feet in length with a gradually broadening mesh. Lengthwise there are 700 meshes from the top to bottom. The net costs 15 to 20 rupees but requires a long time to prepare. It was reported that throw-nets and net-pieces, to be contributed to Rapan companies, are the only types prepared collectively by groups each member giving his time and labour voluntarily but on an exchange basis.

8.97 Throw-net fishing is also carried in the creek at the beginning of high tide but during the nights generally. The high-tide brings some small varieties of fish in the creek. The fishing is done by groups of 20 to 30 fishermen, two rows of 10 or 15 fishermen standing in a line facing each other 15 to 20 yards apart. With the throw-nets held poised in hands, they run towards each other and throw the nets. This running chases the fish towards the centre where the nets are thrown simultaneously. This type of fishing is done only for two or two and a half hours, till the water is about chest deep. All the fish caught in an individual net goes to the fishermen. This fishing is also commercially not important. Only a part of the catch is sold

locally fetching 8 annas to a rupee to the fisherman.

8.98 A variation of the above type is carried on with small boats and larger throw-nets. The boat is a dug-out canoe, 15 to 20 feet long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet in depth, with an out-rigger equipment. The boat is estimated to cost about 100 to 125 rupees when new and lasts 15 years. The throw-net is larger in size, (about 20 feet) than the former and costs 25 to 30 rupees. This type ^{of fishing} is also done at night when the high tide begins rolling in into the creek. Two rows of 5 boats each, stand in mid-creek, the fisherman standing with the throw-nets poised. The boatmen row the boats at the centre and all the 10 throw-nets are cast simultaneously. The catch is divided into 3 parts, the third part going to the owner of the boat. Generally, the fisherman who actually throws the net also owns the net as well as the boat. The boatman is in the nature of casual labour, recruited for the purpose, for $\frac{1}{3}$ rd share in the catch. A slightly larger variety of fish is caught by this method, a greater portion of the catch₂ being sold as fresh fish locally.

8.99 It should be noted that creek fishing by the above methods is discontinuous and mutually exclusive as a rule. As noted above, fishing is done only at the beginning of high tide. All the above types of nets are mended and coated with Zagal or Ain-liquid once in a fortnight. The nets last for a maximum period of 3 seasons.

8.100 Lastly, there is the Vada type of fishing done with the help of the smaller throw-net described above. The net is tied to a pole in mid-water and a garland of palm leaves is turn round the pole to chase fish into the open throw-net tied to the pole. This type is done only when there is no other

fishing activity and for fish for consumption only. It is considered insignificant as a technique."

Processing of Fish :

8.101 Processing of fish is done in two different ways; namely salt curing by the dry method and wet-curing or the 'Ratnagiri' method.

8.102 In the former process, the fish, ~~that is to be cured~~ is sorted out and separated. Smaller varieties, such as mackerels and sardines are cleaned by either making a simple abdominal cut in the case of mackerels or cutting the head and abdomen off with a single diagonal cut and removing the guts and gills. The fish is then washed and treated with a thin layer of salt and stacked. They are washed on the second or third day and dried in the sun for a couple of days.

8.103 The cost of processing in the case of mackerels is estimated at 40% of the value of fresh catch. 1000 numbers of mackerels weighing 5 Pungal maunds and costing Rs.8 to 10/- require ~~a maund of~~ salt worth Rs.1-8-0 and labour, mainly done by females, costing Rs.2-8-0 for cutting, curing with salt and spreading. The selling price of these amounts to Rs.16 to 18 locally and Rs.18 to 20 when sold outside the village.

8.104 The bigger varieties, the Jew-fish, the Cat-fish and the Shark ^{mainly} ~~principally~~ are cured both by the dry cure process and the wet cure process. In the former, the fish are split vertically and the guts and gills are removed. In this position, the vertebral column remains attached to one side of the fish. The vertebral column is next ^{severed} ~~severed~~ from the fleshy side for the greater part of the depth of the fish. This operation gives

the fish a wide flat shape. Scores are then made on the inside fleshy parts by passing the knife length-wise. After washing, the fish is ready for application of salt. The salt is applied to the scores and rubbed all over the cut surface. The fish is then stacked one above another for a period of about a day.

They are then washed and dried in the sun for 3 to 4 days. The fish is then ready for sale.

8.105 The cost of processing in the case of larger fish is estimated at about 42 to 45% of the value of fresh fish. 100 numbers of Jaw fish ^{worth} ~~costing~~ Rs.110, require salt worth Rs.15/-, cutting and cleaning charges of Rs.12-3-0 and salt-curring charges of Rs.16 requiring 4 days of work by 4 persons. The total cost thus amounts to Rs.44-8-0 for Rs.110 worth of fish. The fish can then be sold at a profit of 10% for Rs.160.

8.106 Processing by wet-cure is done by stacking the fish after treating it with half ^{the} ~~an~~ salt. The fish is again salted the next day, the stacking being ~~reverted~~. On the third day the remaining salt is applied and ^{the fish} re-stacked once again. The fish is allowed to remain in this condition for another eight days and then removed. It is not sun-dried. The proportion of salt required for dry processing is reported to be 1 to 5, i.e. 1 maund of salt to 5 maunds of fish generally. In wet-processing the requirements of salt are more, the proportion reported being 1 to 3. The finished product by the wet-cure is soft to the touch due to the presence of a higher percentage of water. Fish cured in this manner cannot be kept for more than 3 to 4 months. It is generally sold in ^{interior} ~~inland~~ villages below the Sahyadri hill ranges.

8.107 Excepting in the case of jew-fish, the guts and gills of all other fish are thrown away. The jew-fish however, yields an air-bladder or fish-maws called Pok locally. These fish-maws and fins are bought by Bombay merchants for export. The local trader has to incur an expenditure of 5 rupees for cutting open and drying 100 air bladders. He can sell them for Rs.25.

8.108 Table below gives the cost of curing and drying fish on an itemised basis i.e. cost per item of fish, and related to that of the mackerel. The change in curing and drying costs are due to the variety in size and requirements of salt and cutting labour.

Sardine	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	the cost of mackerel.
Silver-bar	-	2-3 times	^{the} cost of mackerel.
Cat-fish and Sharks	-	5-6 times	^{the} cost of mackerel.
Jew fish	-	15 to 20 times	^{the} cost of mackerel.

8.109 The preparation of beach-manure is done by simply spreading ~~the~~ small sized sardines ^{or Pedwas} on the beach and sun-drying them for 3 to 5 days. The only cost is that of labour required for spreading ~~and~~ ^{and collecting} respreading them. The labour cost was estimated at 25% of the sale value as follows :

Sale price of 1 Khandi (7 maunds) of beach manure - Rs.60.

Labour for spreading; 10 persons, 2 hours.
 Labour for re-spreading; 10 " , 2 " .
 Labour for collecting and carrying; 10 persons,
 2 hours.

Total : 60 man-hours.

Wages at 4 annas a man-hour - Rs.15 or 25% of salevalue.

The work of spreading and collecting is done mainly by females. They are not paid as a rule, if the fish to be spread belongs to the husband's Rapan Company.

323
8.110 As mentioned earlier, curing of fish is done by the individual fisherman owning the fish. Occasionally labour is recruited when the catch is large. The survey of fishing families records only three out of 25 families, who hired labour for processing during the year 1954-55. The wages amounted to 15 rupees i.e. 1.2 % of the total value of fish cured.

8.111 According to the above survey, fish worth Rs.1262-8-0 out of fish worth Rs.2910-8-0 caught and purchased by 24 fishing families, was reported to have been processed in 1954-55. The percentage works upto 43.7. As a rule the percentage of fish cured depends on the availability of fish during the season and the types of fish caught. The quantity of cured fish varies directly with the catch, larger catch necessitating curing of a greater quantity. The supply of salt required for curing is made available by the Fisheries Department of the Government of Bombay, through its Fish Curing Yard at Mithbav. The salt is sold at subsidized rates at Rs.2-8-0 per maund. It was, however, found that fishermen in Mithbav were in the habit of using salt-earth, instead of commercial salt available at this year. The salt-earth is procured by scraping the thin whitish upper layer of the Khajan or Khar-lands which are submerged at every high-tide. The usage of salt-earth is reported to be injurious to health.

The Fish Curing Yard:

8.112 The Yard at Mithbav was established about 40 years ago, by the Salt Department of the Government of Bombay, for making available to the local fishermen, commercial salt at a low price. The Yard was taken over by the Fisheries Department in 1936.

The officer-in-charge is called Petty Yard Officer. His duties include sale of salt to the fishermen, advise them regarding the advantages of curing on a scientific basis and encourage them to use salt sold by the Yard, instead of curing the fish with salt-earth. He also maintains statistics regarding the quantities of salt sold and the fish cured at the Yard.

8.113 The stocks of salt, requisitioned by him from the Department, are stored in a Pucea hut, standing in the Yard. The yard is situated on the sea-shore and has 20 acres of land under it.

8.114 For the year 1954-55, the following varieties and quantities were brought to the yard for curing.

Table 8.14 Quantity of fish brought to the Fish Curing Yard in 1954-55 (in maunds).

Type of Fish	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
Seer	-	-	20	99	57	105	132	-	-	-	-	-	413
Jew-fish	-	-	-	9	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Cat-fish	-	-	40	-	-	-	90	2½	10	21	-	-	163½
Macherel	-	-	-	-	23	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	87
Sardines	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	48	9	-	67
Oil-Sardines	-	-	-	-	-	10	41½	-	-	-	-	-	51½
Sharks	-	-	-	-	-	375	25	63½	169½	73½	6	12	724½
Dhodi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	27	24	81
Dagal	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	33
Toki	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Total	-	-	60	108	153	569	321½	96	179½	142½	42	36	1703½

The above figures relate to the fish that is brought to the Yard only. AS ^{observed earlier} ~~noted earlier~~ curing with salt-earth is practised extensively. The proportion of fish cured by salt-earth could not be fixed. It was, however, estimated at nearly 50% or more of the total fish cured at Mithbay.

8.115 The Yard sold 473½ maunds of salt during the year. The proportion of salt to the quantity of fish cured, comes to 3.61,. This proportion is the ^{lowest} ~~highest~~ recorded during the last 5 years and points towards greater adoption of the wet-curing method. It may be noted here that fish cured by the wet method is in great demand in the interior villages and that these can be reached directly or through the weekly markets. Fish-cured by the dry-method, however, is purchased mainly for consumption during the rainy months.

8.116 The following table give some statistical information regarding the quantities of fish cured at the Mithbay Fish Curing

Yard, quantities of salt sold and the proportion of salt to fish.
Table 8.14 Quantity of Fish Cured at the Yard.

Year	Quantity of fish brought to the Yard		Quantity of Salt issued		Proportion of fish to each maund of salt.
	Maunds	Seers	Maunds	Seers	
1950-51	2762	- 20	554	- 20	4.09
1951-52	2725	- 0	547	- 0	4.96
1952-53	238	- 0	56	- 0	4.25
1953-54	1772	- 0	413	- 0	4.29
1954-55	1707	- 20	473	- 0	3.61

The Capital Structure :

8.117 In table IV an attempt has been made to estimate the capital engaged in fishing occupation. In the case of Rapan

boats, the reported figure of present value has been retained, with slight modification in the last column of 'value taken'. Estimation was difficult as there was greater variation in sizes. Boats used for individual fishing by the Budi or Nhayi Techniques have been valued at half the replacement value plus the scrap-value. Estimation, as regards the small fishing boats has also been done like-wise, on the assumption that the rate of replacement has been uniform during the last 20 years.

8.118 The same assumption has been made while calculating the estimated book value of the dragnets. The total value of new dragnets was estimated on the basis of the value of net pieces contributed by individual members and ^{the assumption} that, as noted earlier, a year's contribution of nets by all members amounts to 1/3rd_x part of the whole dragnet. The difference between the value given, Rs.40635 and the value taken, Rs.25000, (modified book value of Rs.24937) is due to the fact that while reporting the original cost of the net is generally remembered and that no systematised rate of depreciation is charged.

8.119 In table ^{8.17} IV-A attached herewith, the estimates of number of individual nets owned and estimates of their value, according to value given by the *respondents* as well as estimated on the above assumption are given.

8.120 The value of storage huts and Augal vessels has been retained as reported. The ~~numbers~~ of smaller vessels and knives are based on a rough estimate made by the investigator.

8.121 The table brings out the operational importance of different items noted therein. Nets constitute the major item~~s~~ as regards importance and value. It may be noted that holdings

~~TABLE 8.17~~
Table 8.17 ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF NETS

Type of net	Estimated No. of nets	Book value per net	Estimate accord- ing to value given familywise	Estimate according to nets owned family- wise book value
② Budi	400	25	11,000	10,000
Wagar	150	10	3,500	1,500
② Pase	350	15	8,000	5,250
① Nhayi	600	20	17,000	12,000
④ Shendi	200	12.5	3,500	2,500
Total	1700		43,000	31,250

Note: -

The above have been estimated for 144
fishing families ^{reporting fishing as the main occupation} on a sample of 24
families surveyed.

8.16 Capital structure in Fishing Occupation

Items	Description	Nos.	Value given	Value estimated	Value taken
Boats	Rapan boats	13	13300	-	13,000 ✓ 13,000
	Fishing Boats large	30	-	9750	10,000
	Fishing Boats small	16	-	1040	1,000
<u>Total</u>					24,000
Nets	Rapan Nets	13	40635	24937	25,000 ✓ 25,000
	Individually Owned	--	-	-	-
		--	43000	31000	31,000
<u>Total</u>					56,000
Storage huts	-	13	3850	-	4,000 ✓
Angal Vessels	Large	7	950	-	1,000 ✓
	Small	20	-	2000	2,000 ✓ 7,000
Knives	Sets of 2	390	-	877.5	1,000
<u>Total</u>					8,000
Grand Total					88,000

of individual nets are of a larger value than that of Rapan nets. Together they constitute nearly 53% of the capital equipment.

8.122 The boats come next in order. Whereas every fisherman owns nets for individual fishing, he is not in a position to own a boat of his own. Another consideration in this context is that techniques of individual~~type~~ fishing require joint operation by more than one person, as mentioned earlier. It is not possible for a single person to operate the boat for the Nhayi and Budi methods. The capital outlay required to build a boat is also large and is not within the means of every fisherman. The total estimated value of all the three types of boats amounts to Rs.24,000 or 35.3% of the total.

8.123 Together, the boats and nets amount 88.2% of the total. The remaining items amount to about 12%. The per family capital holding amounts to Rs.611 or roughly Rs.620/-.

Trading in Fish :

8.124 Fish is an extremely perishable commodity, liable to decomposition if not cured or consumed within a short period after it is caught. Secondly, it is caught in the sea and has to be transported to the interior markets. Lastly, it is a commodity the supply of which is very uncertain.

8.125 These characteristics of the supply, namely the perishability, the localisation and the uncertainty, largely circumscribe the modes of trading in fish. Trading in fish has also to take into account the size and type of the fish caught and the period of landing.

8.126 Though almost all types of fish are edible, only

certain varieties are held in estimation by the consumers. Again there are certain types which have to be consumed only when fresh and others which are either consumed fresh or cured or dried. One particular type, called Tarli^(Sardines) is exclusively used for preparation of manure or Kuti. This particular fish is consumed^{fresh} in the beginning of the season when it is young and available in small quantities only. After a time, the fish becomes larger and available in large shoals, the fish in each shoal numbering in lakhs. It is no more used for consumption and is exclusively turned into beach manure, by drying it on the shore.

8.127 The size and type of catch determines the methods of disposal. Rare and ^{important} commercially types are purchased by auction by fisherwomen for sale in the village market and other nearby localities. If the catch is small in size, almost all of it is auctioned out for selling locally. If the catch is large, certain bigger types are sorted out, to be salted and cured. This cured variety is either taken or exported to nearby market place, 20 to 30 miles away for selling. The curing and salting process is undertaken to arrest the immediate decomposition of the fish and to prolong its edibility. In this form it is still fresh fish as distinct from dried fish. As the season proceeds, certain types, like the Bangda, Ghol and Shengala, became abundant and after taking out a portion of the catch for selling fresh, the rest is ^{cured} ~~called~~ and dried. The cured and dried fish can last longer as compared to the wet-processed method, and a part of it is exported to Bombay.

8.128 All the above types of trading and processing are

present at Mithbav. Retail selling of fresh fish in Mithbav and villages round about is almost exclusively done by fisher women. The fish is largely the share received by a member of a Rapan Company and sold ^{by} his wife or bought by ^{in auction} the women ~~by auction~~ for resale. They go round the localities, selling the fish from house to house, during the whole season of eight months. The fish is sold for both cash and kind payments. It was estimated, by the wholesaler, that 60% of the total sales of fresh fish, worth ^{about} Rs.9500/- is sold for kind payment. The fisherwomen prefer kind payment for two reasons. Firstly the fishing community is dependent on the rest of the village for its supply ^{of} cereals. It was also reported that the fishermen going out to sea for hours at a time and going hard work require a diet which is retained for a longer period. The paddy taken in exchange of fish, is boiled and the ^{rice} boiled ^{rice} is prepared into a coarse meal which stays much longer than ^{meal} rice prepared ^{in the normal course} ~~out of mill-polished grain.~~

8.129 The larger varieties of fish are separated and auctioned by the Rapan companies. This is purchased by either wholesalers or local fisherwomen for salting and reselling. This fish is cured by removing the guts and salting by the wet process. It is then sold at more distant and interior places like Fonda, ~~32 miles~~ away and the villages roundabout Fonda. The wholesaler estimated that such salted fish ~~to the~~ of the value of about Rs.1000/- ~~per week or~~ Rs.30,000 annually is sold by Mithbav fishermen to dealers from the above places. This trading is carried on for six months during the season, during which period the dealers stay at Mithbav.

8.130 In addition to the above, retail selling of dry fish is also done within a radius of 15 to 20 miles. The fisherwomen

attend nearby weekly markets during all the eight months of the season. Dry-fish is generally purchased by the poorer classes as it is cheaper. Almost entirely, this fish is sold for kind.

8.131 There are two local wholesalers at Tambaldeg. One of these does his business in partnership with a Muslim from Hindale.

The wholesaler buys only larger varieties of fish as soon as it is landed and gets it cured by hiring the services of fishermen on daily wages. Ghol (Jew-fish) numbering 100 (costing Rs.110/- in the beginning of the season, requires about Rs.15 worth of salt for curing. The cutting of fish removing the entrails and seasoning it with salt is a skilled process. This costs Rs.12½ by way of cutting charges and Rs.15/- for salting and spreading for drying. The fish takes 3 days to dry. The charges for packing and materials cost another Rs.2½.

8.132 This fish, ready for the market, is either sold to dealers that come to Mithbav for making purchases or sent by the local wholesaler to Bombay on his own. When it is sold locally, the wholesaler has to incur the cost of loading the packed fish on the country craft, engaged by the purchasers.

8.133 The prices are quoted differently for every consignment, because of the uncertain nature of supply. An unduly large catch forces down the price immediately. The purchasers numbering 6 to 8 are in constant touch with other dealers/partners operating in other fishing villages. These dealers are mainly Muslims operating for some Malwan firms. It was reported that the fish they buy at Mithbav is later sent to Malabar from where it is exported to Ceylon.

About 10 such dealers come to Mithbav every season. The wholesaler reported a profit margin of 10-15% on such sales.

8.134 Towards the beginning of January, when supply becomes more scarce, the price of the above fish rises to nearly 3 times i.e. between Rs.300 to 350 for 100. It is mainly sold in the hinterland after wet-salting and not exported.

8.135 The Ghol (or Jewfish) yields a by-product called Pok (Fish maws). During the cutting of the fish, these fish-maws are removed and cut, washed in seawater and sun-dried. 100 such fish-maws fetch about Rs.25/- the charges of cutting, washing and spreading for drying costing Rs.5. These are used as substitute for gelatin in certain manufacturing processes.

8.136 The wholesaler also exports a part of dry fish to Bombay. The fish is sold through a ^{Commission agent.} Dalal. All costs and risk of transport and prices is borne by the wholesaler. The different items of expenses for sending 100 items of Ghol are as follows:-

Freight	-	Rs. 12½
Custom charges	-	Rs. 6
Wharfage charges-		Rs. 5
Commission (Dalali)		Rs. 10 (at 6½ per cent)

		Rs. 33½

The prices realised depend upon the supplies from different parts to the Bombay market. It is reported that generally a profit of 15 to 20% is realised on such exports. The Dalal remits the proceeds to the wholesaler after deducting his commission and money-order charges. The pok (or air vessels) referred to earlier are sold separately and fetch an additional income.

8.137 The wholesaler reported that he receives a money order or Hundi within 4 to 7 days after delivery at Bombay. A period of 2½ to 3 weeks elapses between the purchase of fresh fish and receipt of the proceeds realised at Bombay. The initial financing i.e. buying the fish, getting it cured, dried and packed, the freight and customs charges etc. is to be done by the wholesaler. He reported that he operated with a capital of Rs.1000/-. His total turnover, according to him, amounts to Rs.5000 to 6000 of which, the direct exports to Bombay amount to Rs.2000/-. The ^{extent} ~~extent~~ of trading, however, depended upon the nature of the season. If fish ^{is} ~~was~~ plentiful in a particular year, he incurs losses, as he finds it difficult to get labourers. He reported that he purchased 2000 items of Shingala (Catfish) ^{in the previous season} of which he could export only 1300. The rest was buried for preparation of beach manure.

8.138 Since 1954-55, i.e. the year of survey, he does not pay any royalty to the Fishing Cooperative Society. He used to pay the same till the previous year. The Society, also ^{is aware of} ~~realised~~ the losses incurred by him, ^{and} does not insist on the payment. ^{Incidentally} ~~Incidentally~~, It may ^{incidentally} be noted here, that the reporting wholesaler was the Secretary of the Society during the year of survey.

Production and Disposals :

8.139 The estimates of total production and disposals of fish at Mithbav, during the year 1953-54, are given below. The production estimate of Rs.80,000, ^{includes the production of beach murre and} is partly based on data collected from the Rapan companies and partly on estimates of the proportions of catch by different techniques during the year of survey, and approximates the estimate of Rs.70000-80000 made by the wholesaler.

8.140 The estimates of disposals were made by the wholesaler, the Petty Yard Officer of the Fish Curing Yard at Mithbav and three experience fishermen, *together.*

Production :

Value of fresh fish shared by members of 10 Rapan Companies (Reported)	---	Rs. 20920	} 31500
Value of fish auctioned by Rapan Companies (Reported)	---	Rs. 10730	
Value of fish caught individually	---	Rs. 30000	30000
Total	---	<u>Rs. 61650</u>	
or Approximately	---	<u>Rs. 61500</u>	

Disposals :

1. Indirect Sales :

1. Sold to traders	-	6000
ii. Exported to Bombay directly	-	2000
iii. Cured fish (mainly wet-cured) sold directly or through dealers in interior villages.	-	<u>30000</u>

2. Direct Sales :

i.	Sale of dry fish locally or nearby village markets	-	7500	
ii.	Sale of fresh fish in nearby village markets	-	15500	
iii.	Sale of fresh fish locally	-	7000	30000
	<i>Total</i>			<u>68000</u>

Value of fresh fish at landing - 61,500.

Value of dry or cured fish
sold (at landing) - 27,300 111.9

Value of fresh fish - 22,500

49,800

Expenses of salting
and curing at 40% - 18,200

Sale-Value of fish sold - 68,000

The difference of Rs.6500 constitutes profit at 10% on an average and transport charges.

8.141 The per-family proportion of fish produced and fish sold amounts to Rs.427 and 472 respectively. The estimates of production are nett of incidental expenses of production such as repairs and replacements of boats and nets.

The Mithbay Fishing and Trading Cooperative Society Ltd. :

8.142 The society was registered on 30th June 1948 with a nominal capital of Rs.20000/-, split up into 2000 shares of Rs.10/- each. Of these 387 shares are subscribed for and are fully paid up. There ^{were} ~~are~~ 248 Gabit families in the locality (number according to the Ration Shop Register) and all of them were reported to be members. There ^{are few} ~~were no~~ outsiders on the membership list. Voting rights are equal for all. No share has yet been returned.

8.143 The change in membership is as follows :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1948	179	1952	252
1949	182	1953	248
1950	182	1954	248
1951	182	1955	248

The decrease of 4 members in 1953 was reported to be due to the death of the share-holders. These shares have been refunded.

8.144 The Society has a Managing Committee of five persons who are elected by members in the Annual General Meetings, reported to be attended by almost all. The Managing Committee meets ^{e.} once in every month. The day-to-day management is entrusted to a paid Secretary, who maintains the accounts also. He gets a salary of Rs.40/- p.m. all told. The accounts are audited annually by the Cooperative Department.

8.145 The Society was formed with a view to undertake trading in fish, hither-to done ^{only} by private persons. It purchased bigger fish from its members and got them cured by hired labour. This cured fish was then sold to ^{visiting} dealers ^{or exported to} from Bombay directly. The business had, however, to be discontinued within 3 years, as it was revealed that the costs incurred therein were not favourable.

8.146 The Society then entered into a contract with a local trading concern formed by 3 partners, one of whom belonged to the local community and the other two being from ^{-the} adjacent ^{village} locality ~~in the village~~ of Hindale. All the three were members of the Society. The contract specified, for the whole season of

October 1951 to May 1952, rates of different types of fish, caught by the members of the Society. A royalty of Rs.500/- was agreed to be paid to the Society in three instalments; a deposit of Rs.100/- ^{on} ~~after the~~ signing of the contract, Rs.200/- in mid-season in January and the balance of Rs.200/- at the conclusion of the season on the 1st ^{of} June. The Society allowed the use of its premises for curing and storing fish. It was to be repaired by the contractors at their ~~at~~ cost and used. A monthly rent of Rs.3/- was to be paid to the Society.

8.147. As the royalty and rent was paid in full in the first year, the Society continued the contract for the year 1952-53 also. But the dealers suffered losses in that year and no amount by way of royalty or rent was paid. The Society, therefore, discontinued the contract.

8.148 During the 1953-54 season, the Society sold the right of purchase of all big and curable fish caught by its members to a member-dealer for Rs.300/-. As above, the rates of different types of fish were fixed at the beginning of the season and the dealer was under compulsion to buy all such fish at ~~the~~ these fixed rate, at his own risk. When fish was in abundance, member-fishermen helped the dealer in curing the fish for no charge and as a friendly gesture. The dealer paid Rs.200/- ^{instead} ~~out~~ of the agreed Rs.300/-, the Society agreeing to accept the smaller amount on account of losses suffered by the dealer. The contract for the 1954-55 season, ^{was} ~~had been~~ given to the same member-dealer.

8.149 In 1949, the Society purchased a motor-truck for carrying member-fishermen and women to bazar centres for selling fresh fish. The Society's truck carried fisher-women and their

fish to Tale bazar (12 miles away) and back at annas -/8/- per head and to Kankavali (40 miles away) and back at Rs.2/- per head. These rate work out to less than half of those charged by the S.R.T. Corporation. The Society purchased the truck["] in order to help its members and also to prove to them the advantages of cooperative effort and organization.["] In the first two years after the purchase of the truck, the Society, then dealing in fish trade by itself, ^{forewent} ~~reaped~~ a profit of Rs.2000/- per annum on account of the purchase and use of the truck. The truck continues to carry members to market centres at the same rates. The truck is hired out to a local person at Rs.1250/- per annum, which amount is paid directly to the person who has made a fictitious deposit of Rs.9400/- with the Society in order to enable it to purchase the truck. The Society has still to pay Rs.2500/- to make it complete owner of the truck. This amount ^{is to} ~~will~~ be paid in two annual instalments by the person who has hired the truck. The Society, under agreement, has placed a prior claim for transporting its members to bazar centres. During off time, he can ply the truck for other purposes like passanger or goods transport. He has to bear all the cost of repairs and replacements.

8.150 In 1949, the Society also undertook the distribution of foodgrains to the locality. Only rationed articles were sold and all the families took advantage of the shop. The Society invested Rs.2500/- in this activity. The ration shop has been closed since the decontrol of foodgrains. The Society had to bear losses on account of the ration shop. The stocks of grain on hand are estimated at Rs.1670/- in addition to a credit of Rs.600/- with the Government, by way reimbursement due to the

the Society, of transport charges of grain already paid by the Society. The ration-shop has shown a small net loss of Rs.250/- since its beginning.

8.151 Excepting in the first year of its working, the Society has not declared any dividends. In that year, it paid a dividend of annas eight per share of Rs.10/-.

8.152 The last completed balance sheet of the Society is given below. The funds of the society are kept in a bank at Devgad. The Society, under special sanction by its Managing Committee, sanctions loans to its members. The loans are 5 times the share-holding of the debtor, and never above Rs.300/-. Such transactions however are few.

Balance sheet as on 31-8-54

<u>Assets</u>	Rs. - As. - Ps.	<u>Liabilities</u>	Rs. - As. - Ps.
Cash in hand	404- 8 - 3	Share Capital	3870- 0 - 0
Cash Devgad Bank	67- 0 - 0	Deposits	3750- 0 - 0
Motor Truck	9420- 0 - 0	Dividend (unpaid)	3- 0 - 0
Ration Shop Investment	2500- 0 - 0	Sinking Loan Fund	108- 14 - 0
Interest due from Ration Shop		Education Fund	78- 2 - 0
30-6-53	156- 4 - 0	Bonus	703- 2 - 3
30-6-54	156- 4 - 0	Reserve Fund	624- 2 - 0
Dead Stock	17- 10 - 0	Profits : 30-6-52	1006- 1 - 3
Fish on Hand	58- 0 - 0	30-6-53	1242- 0 - 3
		30-6-54	1374- 4 - 0
		Audit fees	20- 0 - 0
Total Rs.	12779- 10 - 3	Total Rs.	12779- 10 - 3

Fisheries School, Tambaldeg, Mithbav :

8.153 The School is situated at the southern end of the locality. Originally a Local Board School, teaching for regular vernacular final examinations, it was converted into a fisheries school, the subject of fisheries being introduced step by step. The school was established in Dec.1947.

8.154 The School building was constructed by the residents of the locality, all of whom are Gabits. The expenses of annual and seasonal repairs are undertaken by the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Bombay.

8.155 All the school expenses are borne by the Department directly. The Department has three sections, the Yards Section, the Research Section and the School Section. The last Section conducts 11 Fishery Schools in the state, including this school. The Department also conducts a special examination, the Fisheries School Certificate Examination, for all the fishery schools. The annual inspection of the school is conducted by the Superintendent of Fishery Courses, Stationed at Ratnagiri. In addition to free education upto the certificate examination, every student gets a free set of text-books from the Department.

8.156 The school is attended by male and female students. A special bias ^{of} for fishery subjects is given for all male students, in addition to regular primary school subjects. Out of ten papers, 6 are for primary school subjects and 4 papers are entirely on fisheries, 3 on theory and 1 on practicals. The Fishery practicals include carpentry, net-making, construction of boat, fishing, swimming etc. The School has an adequately furnished workshop and instruction is given by a trained

carpentary teacher who is the workshop superintendent also. The course is so formulated as to enable a qualified student to join the Tindel's course, conducted by the Department, ^{or} join a High School for further studies like any vernacular final student.

8.157 Girls are instructed in domestic science and home-nursing separately, during the periods when male students attend their fisheries classes.

8.158 In spite of all the facilities the Headmaster reported that parents do not send their children on the pretext of lack of clothes, sickness, baby-sitting etc. The irregularities in attendance are reported to the School Board. The upper classes are fairly well attended. Grown-up boys have to help in the family occupation. Actually 3 boys from the 7th standard work in Eapan companies.

The Department has introduced medical inspection from the current year.

8.159 The fishing community shows sufficient interest in the courses taught and in the general conduct and progress of the school. No expert advice, however, is sought by them from the school. There is a regular School Committee of 3 local residents, with the Headmaster as the Secretary. The selection of members is done at random and for one year only. Their duties are :

- 1) They should visit the school regularly;
- 2) Cooperate with the teachers in the matter of attendences;
- 3) Supervise the work and attendance of the staff. They can end do report the irregularities to the Director of Fisheries, through the Superintendent at Ratnagiri;
- 4) They have to settle any disputes or compaints. Any such complaints referred to the Director of Fisheries are referred back to the Chairman of the Committee, for inquiry and action

8.160 The staff consists of 6 members, of whom 3 are trained

the Headmaster a B.Sc., T.D., a fully qualified matriculate carpentary teacher and one untrained teacher. There are two ladies on the staff including the untrained teacher.

8.161 The following table gives the number of students in the register and their average attendance for the last 7 years, i.e. since the fisheries course was introduced.

Table 8.18 Attendance of Students : Average for the year.

Academic Year 1st Nov. to 31st Oct.	On the School Register			Average attendance		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1947-48	141	62	203	107.3	39.3	146.6
1948-49	118	78	196	111.5	50.4	161.9
1949-50	130	80	210	102.6	52.0	154.6
1950-51	123	78	207	102.5	50.5	153.0
1951-52	134	72	206	110.4	51.2	161.6
1952-53	144	81	225	106.05	53.9	159.95
1953-54	144	81	225	103.2	53.0	156.2