

INDIAN ECONOMICS

By the same authors

ELEMENTARY ECONOMICS (3rd ed., 1948), ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (5th ed., ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ECONOMICS (4th ed., 1946)

INDIAN ECONOMICS A Comprehensive and Critical Survey

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APPENDIX PARTITION AND AFTER¹

§1. Population.—The following table, based on the figures of the 1941 census, shows the area, in thousands of square miles, and population, in millions, of the two Dominions and of the States outside them :

	-	Popula- tion (millions)	Per cent of total	Area (1000 sq. mi.)	Per cent of total area	Density
INDIAN UNION	1					
Provinces		230	57.8	627	40.1	368
States		68	17.6	418	26.5	167
Total		298	75.4	1,045	66.6	299
Pakistan	Ì					
Provinces		66	16.9	236	14.9	280
States		5	2.6	129	8.1	37
Total		71	19.5	365	23.0	195
Hyderabad		16	4,1	82	5.2	198
Kashmir	•••	4	1.0	82	5.2	19
Grand total		389	100	• 1,574	100	241

Nearly 64 per cent of the total Pakistan population is concentrated in Eastern Pakistan, which accounts for only 25 per cent of the total area of Pakistan. The density of population in Eastern Pakistan is as high as 718 as against 136 in Western Pakistan.

The percentage of urban population is 14 in India and 8 in Pakistan.

It is officially estimated that, as a result of communal disturbances on the eve of the partition, 5 million Muslims migrated from India to Pakistan and there was an influx of about the same number of non-Muslims into India. This still leaves about 32 million Muslims in India and 15 million non-Muslims in Pakistan.

§2. Agriculture.—The following figures relating to the year 1938–9 show that nearly half of the total area is uncultivated in both Dominions, the proportion of cultivated land being a little higher in India than in Pakistan. Per capita sown area in India is 0.75 acre and in Pakistan 0.64 acre. 15 per cent of the total area is under forest in India as against 5

¹ This appendix is largely based on Professor C. N. Vakil's timely and useful publication, *Economic Consequences of the Partition*, second edition.

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Classification of area	Indian Union		Pakistan		Hydera- bad	Kash- mir	Total
(in million acres)	агса	%	area	%	area	area	area
Net sown Current fallow	204 47	42 9	43 11	37 <u></u> 9	27 3	2 0.3	277 61
Total cultivated	251	51	54	46	30	2.3	338
Forests Not available for culti-	74	15	5	5	6	2	87
vation Other uncultivated	80 86	16 18	30 26	26 23	10 2	3 1	123 115
Total uncultivated	240 ·	49	61	54	18	6	325
Grand total	491	100	115	100	48	8.3	663
	-		<u> </u>	1	, ,		1

per cent in Pakistan. Of the uncultivated area Pakistan has a larger proportion than India not available for cultivation.

251 million acres or 18 per cent of the cultivated area is under irrigation in India, while 54 million acres or 36 per cent of the cultivated area is under irrigation in Pakistan. Most of the irrigation works, however, are located in Pakistan.

An area equal to 183.6 million acres or 78 per cent in India and 37.7 million acres or 77 per cent in Pakistan is under food crops. Per capita acreage under food crops is 0.61 in India and 0.54 in Pakistan. But owing to irrigation facilities, the yield of crops per acre is higher in Pakistan with greater scope for reaping more than one crop in the year. Pakistan thus enjoys a surplus, while India has a deficit of from 3 to 5 million tons of food-grains.

India has to import cotton and jute from Pakistan. On the other hand groundnuts, coffee and tea are entirely Indian products for which Pakistan is dependent on India.

The position of Pakistan, in respect of milk is more favourable than that of India. Pakistan also has a more abundant supply of hides. §3. Minerals.—It is needless to point out that annual production in India is at present far superior to that of Pakistan in respect of minerals.

Mineral	India (1944)	Pakistan (1944)
Coal (lakh tons)	248	3
Iron (lakh tons)	23	· -
Conner (lakh tona)	3.3	-
Manganoro (lakh tone)	3.7	-
Denvite (tong)	12,135	
D-Analoum (million millond)	66	21
Mine (ambo)	139,000	
Chromite (thousand tone)	21	19
Commun (thousand tone)	26	58

§4. Industry and Trade.—Dislocation of the industrial structure may be said to be one of the major evil consequences of partition. Artisans and skilled workers who were mostly Muslims migrated to Pakistan leaving the factories in East Punjab almost without labour. Hindu capitalists fled to India leaving factories in West Pakistan without managerial skill. While cotton and jute are grown mostly in Pakistan, the cotton and jute mills are mostly located in India.

An idea of the distribution of various industries can be had from the figures given below relating to 1942:

Industries			India	Pakistan		
Cotton mills Jute mills Sugar mills Iron and steel Cement factories Paper mills Glass factories	···· ···· ····	···· ····	357 111 176 36 57 19 112	15 15 8 		

The total number of cotton mills in 1943-4 was 410, out of which only 15 were located in Pakistan. The textile and jute mills in India largely depend upon Pakistan' for their raw material.

India's share of the industrial establishments in undivided India is 86 per cent and of persons employed in industries more than 90 per cent are to be found in India. Pakistan lacks many major industries, and in average size those she has are inferior to India's. There is also much greater diversity of industrial development in the Indian Union than in Pakistan.

Though Pakistan has a few cement factories, they are dependent on India for coal and gunny-bags and her sugar factories have not developed *pari passu* with the area under sugar-cane.

The most serious drawback of Pakistan's industrial structure is the total absence of iron and steel factories.

Pakistan is more preponderantly agricultural than the Indian Union. While undivided India had a monopoly of the export trade in raw jute, the Indian Union is now the world's heaviest importer of that commodity which has to come to her from Pakistan. Similarly the Indian Union has now to import about one million bales of cotton (mostly mediumand long-staple) from Pakistan which includes the most important cottonproducing areas of undivided India. The Indian Union has an unfavourable balance of trade with Pakistan as well as with the outside world. One of the difficult problems for the Indian Union, and to a lesser extent for Pakistan, is that of bridging the gap between exports and imports by an increase in the former and a decrease in the latter or both.

§5. Transport.— (i) Railways. The total capital at charge of the Indian railways is Rs. 702 crores as against Rs. 136 crores of the Pakistan railways. Of the total route mileage of undivided India, 77 per cent is in the Indian

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Union.	The	following	table	shows	the	division	of	railways	according	to
mileage	:		•							

Indian Union	Miles	Pakistan	Miles
1. NW. Railway (East Punjab comm. lines)	1,610	1. NW. Railway Comm. lines Strategic	3,110 1,817
Matra annas	376 1,399	2. Assam Railway Broad gauge Metre gauge	503 999
 S. E.I.R. B.B.C.I. B.N.R. G.I.P. M.&S.M. O.T.R. S.I.R. Bezwada & Dhor Kurnool 	21,180	3. Jodhpur-Hyderabad Railway	319
Total	24,565	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	6,748

The Indian Union is relieved of the burden of the strategic lines of the N.-W.F. Railways which were responsible for a total loss of Rs. 42 crores during the period from 1924 to 1946. Acceptance of the scales of pay as recommended by the Central Pay Commission and the rising prices of stores and fuel are however factors which will to some extent offset this relief.

The movement of refugees severely dislocated the railway finances as well as the general administration in both the Dominions. During a period of two and a half months, the railways were called upon to move as many as three million refugees. This strain was too much for the engines and bogies that were already worn out and had long needed replacement.

The future of Indian railways, however, is fairly bright and their position is steadily improving. The following table reveals the enormous rise of railway income and expenditure since the Partition:

-	•	Undivided India 1939–40	Indian Union 1948–9	Pakistan 1948–91
Gross revenues		102.73	190	36.89
Total working expenses		69,93	159.78	37.15
Net miscellaneous revenue		0.64	2.16	_
Nct revenue		33.44	32.38	·
Interest charges		29.11	22.53	_
Surplus profit		4.33	9.85	l –

The N.-W. Railway and the Assam-Bengal Railway which have been split up between the two Dominions earned a profit appreciably smaller in proportion to that earned by the other railways. This implies that Pakistan will probably have a deficit railway budget, although it has not accepted the pay scales of the Central Pay Commission.

¹ The figures for Pakistan are inclusive of revenue under Posts and, Telegraphs,

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Imports of spare parts from the United Kingdom and the manufacture of some of them in her own ordnance factories, the reduction of delay in the turn-round of wagons and engines, and drastic measures to check ticketless travel have greatly helped to improve the position of railways in India.

(ii) Shipping. Undivided India had only 150,000 tons of shipping which amounted to 0.24 per cent of the world total. Out of this the share of Pakistan amounts to not more than 40,000 tons.

(iii) Roads. Out of a total-metalled and unmetalled-mileage of 315,000, India has 265,000 and Pakistan 50,000 miles of roads.

§6. Currency and Exchange.--The following were the main provisions of the Pakistan Monetary System and Reserve Bank Order, 1947.

(i) Indian notes were to continue to be legal tender in Pakistan till 30 September 1948.

(ii) On 30 September 1948, the Reserve Bank of India was to retire as a note-issuing authority for Pakistan. Since that date Pakistan has had unfettered authority to make her own currency arrangements.

(iii) After 1 April 1948, the Reserve Bank might issue 'Pakistan notes'.

(iv) Assets equal in value to Pakistan notes were to be transferred by the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank of India to the Government of Pakistan soon after the 30 September 1948.

(v) Pakistan is to accept Indian notes from the Reserve Bank of India in certain circumstances until 1 October 1949, but they are to be replaced by Pakistan notes as and when required.

(vi) For one year after the issue of Pakistan coins the Indian rupee and subsidiary coins will remain legal tender in Pakistan.

Accordingly Pakistan notes and Pakistan currency have been issued from the dates specified.

Pakistan has had authority to declare the par value of her currency from October 1948. Considering the position of Pakistan in respect of foreign trade, it is surmised that Pakistan currency will remain on a par with the Indian rupee.

§7. Banking.—The number of banking concerns in the two Dominions immediately after the Partition is given in the table below :

		· · · ·		India	Pakistan
CHEDULED BANKS: Head Offices Branch Offices		•••		85 2,428	13 620
Total	•••		····	2,513	633
Non-Scheduled Ban Head Offices Branch Offices	KS : 	····		462 1,175	157 411
Total		•••		1,637	568
Grand Total	·		····	4,150	1,201

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Pakistan's share of banks was in proportion to population. But after the Partition many banks and indigenous bankers migrated from Pakistan to India. As might be expected, the result has been a considerable decline of banking business in Pakistan. Bank advances and bills discounted have declined and time-deposits have dwindled from about Rs. 39 crores to about Rs. 18 crores. The wholesale flight of Hindu capitalists with their funds and valuables from Pakistan naturally aggravated the situation.

The West Punjab Government floated a Finance Corporation with a capital of Rs. 1 crore mainly to finance the cotton and wheat trade. Before the Partition this finance was provided by Hindu capitalists.

As mentioned in the Pakistan Monetary System and Reserve Bank Order, 1947, a Central Pakistan Bank, called 'The State Bank of Pakistan', has been instituted since 1 July 1948 to manage the paper-currency, public debt and exchange of the Dominion. The structure of the Bank is almost the same as that of the Reserve Bank of India.

§8. Public Finance.-Estimates of central revenues of both the Dominions are given below in lakhs of rupees, based on figures for 1914-5:

	Heads of Reve	enue	-	Share of India	Share of Pakistan	Total
1.	Customs	••••	•••	29,32	8,97	38,29
2.	Central excise duties		•••	32,87	5,27	38,14
3.	Corporation tax and come:	taxes o	on in-			
	Ordin ary Surcharge		••••	52,95 32,73	4,43 2,84	57,38 35,57
4.	Business profits tax		•••	11,00	1,00	12,00
5.	Civil administration			1,91	57	2,48
6.	Currency and mint	•••		9,60	2,86	12,46
7.	Civil works		ا ا	59	18	77
8,	Interest			1,37	41	1,78
9.	Opium	•••	••••	1,04		1,04
0.	Receipts from States			46	14	60
1.	Receipts in connexion	with wa	r	14,32	4,28	18,60
12.	Net receipts from Po graphs	sts and	Tele-	7,89	2,36	10,25
3.	Net receipts from rai	-	•••	24,64	7,36	32,00
4.	Deduct share of inco buted to provinces	me-tax o	listri- 	-21,25	5,31	26,56
Т	otals	••••		200,44	35,29	235,63

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These estimates proved substantially correct as revealed by the budget figures for 1948–9. The estimates in respect of provinces are given below in lakhs of rupees, based on figures for 1944–5:

PAKISTAN PROVINCES :	1. 1. A.			
West Punjab	•••	·	·	14,95
Sind				. 8,80
NW.F.P.	•••			1,84
East Bengal		••••		18,84
Sylhet	•••	••••	•••	1,00
Baluchistan	1 	•••	•••	20
INDIAN PROVINCES:				1.2
East Punjab		•••	•••	8,06
U. P		•••	••• .	27,47
Bihar	•••	• •••	· · · · ·	12,75
Orissa	•••			3,18
Assam			• •••	4,92
C.P. & Berar			•••	9,62
Bombay		•••	•••	33,67
Madras	••••	•••	•••	41,24
West Bengal	•••	•••	•••	14,78

Partition has brought with it an enormous increase of expenditure for both the Dominions. For the suppression of communal riots and maintaining law and order in general it has become necessary to strengthen the defence and police services.

Another incidental item of heavy expenditure is in connexion with the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. This is likely to continue for a few years to come.

One of the results of widespread disturbances was incalculable damage to food crops which greatly worsened the food situation in the country. The expenditure on food subsidies has consequently risen steeply.

The extra burden, mainly due to an increase of unproductive expenditure, besides aggravating inflationary tendencies, has necessitated the postponement of many nation-building schemes that had been projected.

Payment of overseas pensions and interest on pre-partition loans amounting to about Rs. 68.5 crores a year is to be the sole responsibility of the Indian Dominion for a few years to come.

§9. The division of assets and liabilities.—A financial agreement, laying down broad principles for the distribution of assets and liabilities between the two Dominions, was signed on 12 December 1947.

On 1 March 1947, the amount of interest-yielding assets was Rs. 1,000 crores, the uncovered debt, Rs. 867 crores, and cash and securities held on the Treasury Account, Rs. 514 crores.

		India (Rs. crores)	Pakistan (Rs. crores)
Interest-yielding assets Cash balance	•••	 835 325	165 75

The division under the agreement is approximately as follows:

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Of the debt of Rs. 867 crores, Pakistan's share comes to 17.5 per cent. One-third of the military stores went to Pakistan which was also granted an advance of Rs. 6 crores to enable it to work its ordnance factories.

The interest on securities both in India and in Pakistan will be met by the Indian Government alone for some time, after which Pakistan will be required to pay its own share. It is to discharge its indebtedness to India by annual payments extending over a period of 50 years, beginning from the fifth year of partition. India's liability to holders of securities in Pakistan will be about Rs. 7 crores.

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