

**PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEERS,**  
**VOLUME III.**  
**PART B.**  
**GURGAON DISTRICT**  
**STATISTICAL TABLES.**

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**1935.**

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## PREFACE.

THIS volume is issued under the orders contained in the Punjab Government, Revenue Department, letter No. 2279—R., dated 14th June, 1928. The lines on which the revision of the Gazetteers has been undertaken are laid down in the Government of India, Home Department, letter No. 3375, dated 1st October, 1902.

The Volume contains all detailed statistics with such short notes as have been found necessary to elucidate them.

As required by paragraph 4 (2) of Punjab Government letter No. 670, dated 8th May, 1903, a brief note giving the history of famine which hovered over the district during the period from 1929-30 and 1931 has been added. No new railway or canal was opened or constructed during the period under review.

### Note on the Famine of 1929-30 and 1930.

Owing to the complete absence of any but agricultural occupations, it is painfully true that the history of famine in the Gurgaon District is the history of economic conditions of the district. The year 1929-30 was a year of famine due to the failure of several harvests in succession on account of poor rainfall. The stores of fodder which were with the people disappeared much earlier and there were no imports to replenish them. At this time the authorities were confronted with the immediate problem of fodder famine.

The Government in March, 1929, appointed a Fodder Adviser who purchased 11,700 maunds of fodder for distribution as takavi in kind to the farmers of the district. Several private contractors were also engaged to supply fodder and they supplied a good quantity costing to Rs. 9,147. The direct supplies from the Fodder Advisor not only helped to preserve many valuable cattle but indirectly also helped to keep down the prices of private supplies, and there is no doubt that but for the timely assistance rendered by the Fodder Advisor the loss of cattle would have been, in the affected areas, terrible.

Anxiety was not, however, confined to the problem of fodder. Owing to the failure of successive harvests the condition of the people was very grave and was further aggravated by damage done to crops by locusts. At this time the Punjab Government in order to help the poor people decided to open 5 test works on 16th November, 1929, one in each of the five out of the six

tahsils of the district, the Rewari tahsil being the only exception. For the first four months it seemed that if the works were hardly required, but with the obvious failure of Rabi 1930 distress began to manifest itself and test works in the district began to be largely attended. The large number of labourers on them soon established a need for more relief measures. Accordingly in April, 1930, the district was declared "Scarcity tract" under paragraph 65 of the Punjab Famine Code. The number of works was steadily increased to 19 and the daily average of persons relieved in the district to 58,277.

These works were closed in September, 1930, due to the timely and sufficient rainfall in July, 1930. These operations cost roughly Rs. 5½ lacs.

### 1931.

In Gurgaon September, 1930, was again a rainless month and no good Rabi crops could be sown. The Rabi crop of 1931 was a failure, as revealed by the harvest inspection, to the extent of 55.6 per cent. and had the least matured area on record. In this year in the district four test works were re-opened, one in each of the tahsils Gurgaon, Rewari, Palwal and Firozpur-Jhirka. More works had to be opened when labour increased to a great extent, bringing the total number of works to 14 and the total number of units relieved was 17,13,697. The expenditure on the test works and relief works during 1931 was Rs. 1½ lacs.

Gratuitous relief was also given to a certain extent in the affected areas. Takavi was also advanced to cultivators to tide over the distress and remissions and suspensions were also made during the period of scarcity.

### Management of works.

The expenditure of the works was met from the Provincial grant under the head "43—Famine (Reserved) A—Famine Relief". The money was paid to the accounts of the District Board and the works were controlled through the agency of the Engineering and Accounts department of the District Board.

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**1935.**

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