

PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEERS,

VOLUME I

PART B.

**HISSAR DISTRICT
STATISTICAL TABLES.**

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 the 14th June 1928. The lines on which the revision of District Gazetteers is to be undertaken are laid down in the Government of India, Home Department, letter No. 3375, dated 1st October 1902, and are as follows :—

“ The chief difficulty which stands in the way of the periodical revision of the existing Gazetteers, and that reason which has caused so large a portion of their contents to become obsolete, is that they contain a mixture of permanent matter, such as that relating to the history, physical characteristics, religion, ethnography, &c., of the district ; of matter which changes gradually but, as a rule, slowly, such as that dealing with the agricultural and economic conditions ; and of ephemeral matter mainly statistical, which soon becomes out of date. For this reason, when a new District Gazetteer is issued it should consist of two volumes, A and B, compiled on the following lines :—

“(1) In the first edition all descriptive matter should go into the A volume ; but the volume should contain only such general figures (incorporated in the letter-press) as are necessary to give point to remarks in the text. . . . All detailed statistics should be relegated to the B volume, which would at first consist only of these and of such notes as may be necessary to elucidate them.

“(2) On the occasion of the next revision the statistics in the B volume should be re-compiled, and this volume should be expanded by adding to it any matter that might be required to correct or supplement the A volume. Thus if there had been a famine since A was published, if a new railway had been opened, and so forth, information on these points would appear in B as supplementary to the appropriate chapters in A.

“(3) This process would go on till the time had come for revising the A volume. Then all the supplementary text matter should be incorporated in the new A volume, and B would revert to its original form as a statistical appendix with explanatory notes.

“(4) A new edition of the B volume should be brought out after each Census. The revision of the A volume must be left to the discretion of the Local Governments. The occurrence of a new settlement will ordinarily be the best time for such revision ;* but it may well happen that plenty of copies of the original A volume are still

available, and that the settlement and lapse of time have not wrought any important change in the conditions of the district. In that case the revision of A should stand over till the stock of it no longer suffices for the demand ; but a brief account of the settlement operations, and of the changes which they have produced or disclosed in the state of affairs, described in the A volume, should be prepared by the Settlement Officer before he is relieved of his duties for inclusion in the next decennial B volume.

- (5) The statistical part of the B volume should be issued with interleaved blank pages, so that those who use it can have the figures of later years written in. The tables included in the B volume should be drawn up on uniform lines, and should contain the main administrative statistics of the district and its tahsils or other sub-divisions. . . . It is thought that including the explanatory notes they should not ordinarily exceed a maximum limit of 50 pages."

Instead of issuing the tables with interleaved blank pages as suggested in paragraph (5) above, it has been found convenient to print the tables themselves with blank spaces in which to insert the figures of future years. The pages occupied by the statistical matter thus include the space which in the original scheme would have been appropriated by the interleaved pages, and consequently are somewhat in excess of the maximum fixed in paragraph (5).

* In the Punjab the Settlement Officer is generally entrusted with the revision of the District Gazetteer, and this plan is commended for adoption in other Provinces.

**Supplementary Notes regarding important events which occurred
in the Hissar District after the Hissar District Gazetteer
(Part A) was published in 1915.**

1. Ninety-five villages were transferred from Fatehabad Tahsil to Tahsil Hissar in 1923,—*vide* notification No. 41-352-Boundaries-1-2-4402, dated 3rd April 1923.

2. Hanumangarh, Sadalpur Branch of Bikaner State Railway was constructed,—*vide* notification No. 1032-W.S., dated 6th August 1929. In this district the branch passes through Ellenabad, Talwara, Khurd, Dhani Jatan, Khari Suraira and Mithi Suraira; all these villages are situated in Tahsil Sirsa.

3. 45.44 acres were transferred from village Killanwali, District Ferozepore, to village Dabwali, in the Sirsa Tahsil,—*vide* notification No. 4292-E., dated 3rd October 1931.

4. Due to successive failure of harvests from Kharif, 1928 onwards the district was in the grip of famine in 1929-30. In Kharif, 1928 more than 50 per cent. of the unirrigated sown area failed almost entirely. This was succeeded by a worse rabi when only 40 per cent. of the sown area matured. As a result of the failure of these two successive harvests, the zamindars of the district ran short of fodder and began to sell their cattle at a comparatively cheaper rates on account of the acute fodder scarcity. The Government appointed a Fodder Advisor in the summer of 1929 through whom fodder worth Rs. 41,296 was imported into the district. Thirty-six thousand, seven hundred and sixty-one maunds were supplied by the Fodder Advisor as taccavi in kind and 26,509 maunds were sold on cash payment. In addition to this a large quantity of fodder was brought in by private agencies. Rupees 4,09,417 under Act XII of 1884 and Rs. 1,47,300 under Act XIX of 1883 were advanced by way of taccavi to the zamindars and land revenue to the amount of Rs. 5,42,756 was suspended during the same period.

In 1929-30 scarcity conditions prevailed over an area of 5,184 square miles with a population of 816,810 souls. The distress was most acute in the unirrigated tracts, especially the Nali tract of Sirsa and the unirrigated tract round about Pirthala, Bawan, Tohana, Tosham, Bawani Khera and Siwani. Test works at the following places were opened to give relief :—

Tosham, Rania, Pirthala, Tohana, Jagmalera, Legha, Bhanan, Siwani, Sirsa, Bapora, Bhirrana, Patwan and Darbi.

Total amount of money spent on famine operations amounted to Rs. 1,99,949-4-3, and the total number of units relieved was 1,691,250. Besides this, subscriptions were raised from well-to-do people and local

committees were formed to afford relief to parda nashin females. In this way about Rs. 8,000 were raised.

Apart from the above liberal advances for the sinking of wells were made in those tracts where wells could advantageously be sunk. In all, the sum of Rs. 2,89,410 was advanced. Out of this the major part was given for the sinking of wells in the Nali tracts of Fatehabad, Hissar and Sirsa Tahsils. These advances are likely to prove to be of permanent value in securing the scarcity stricken tracts of the district. On account of the acute scarcity suspensions were allowed on a liberal scale. In suitable cases, remissions were also allowed. These relief measures proved a great boon to the people of the district. There was no emigration, though able-bodied persons of this district moved out in search of labour to more fortunate areas in the province, especially the irrigated tracts of Bahawalpur and Ferozepore, etc. Some of the zamindars migrated with their cattle to the jungles in the Karnal District near the Jumna river.

Famine conditions again prevailed in 1932-33 in the unirrigated parts of the district. During the last decade the district had only one good harvest (Kharif, 1931) and the remaining harvests were generally poor or below average. Suspensions and remissions of land revenue had to be allowed on a large scale. Out of the total demand of Rs. 7,62,018 on account of land revenue of the district for Kharif, 1932, Rs. 5,92,200 were suspended and Rs. 1,59,670 remitted out of the arrears of previous years. In addition to these amounts, Rs. 12,743 in arrears on account of taccavi advances for seed and bullocks were similarly remitted. Fodder ran short in most of these tracts and water in the village ponds began to diminish. This trouble was acute in the Bagar Circles and in the tract round about Tohana.

Failure of harvests for a number of years, the drought which made its appearance again and again, the exhaustion of the resources of the zamindars, want of employment and diminished wages were responsible for the scarcity conditions which came to exist after October 1932. Persons physically robust from among the zamindars began to leave their homes along with their cattle in search of pastures and labour in the adjoining canal-irrigated and more favourably situated places. Those also who could or would not leave their homes felt the pinch of the situation greatly.

Many found it impossible to keep the wolf from the door, in spite of the low prices which prevailed for all the savings had been spent up, and the future was very gloomy. It became necessary, therefore, to start famine test works in December, 1932.

These were started in Darba Kalan Pirthala, Juglan, Chormarkhera, Bawani Khera, Tosham, Aharwan, Dangra, Bahbalpur, Kuranganwali, Chandar Kalan, Loha Khera, Thiraj, Saharwa, Siwani, Jamal-

pure, Dhollu and Tohana. The total expenditure on famine test works in the district amounted to Rs. 39,631-10-0 and the total number of persons relieved thereon was 471,767. In addition sixteen spinning centres were started in Hansi, Hissar and Fatehabad Tahsils. Six thousand and thirty-five persons were relieved by spinning cotton at these centres. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,365-6-0. The parts affected covered an area of about 3,728 square miles with a population of 513,014 souls. The trouble was very acute in the barani ilaqas and especially in the Nali tract of Tahsil Sirsa and round about Tohana and Pirthala in Tahsil Hissar, Aharwan in tahsil Fatehabad, Siwani and Tosham in tahsil Bhiwani and Bawani Khera and Jamalpur in tahsil Hansi, though its effects were felt in nahri parts as well to some extent. The poorer zamindars and kamins were hit hard while the bigger zamindars, shop-keepers and money-lenders also suffered to a great extent. In addition to these measures of relief taccavi loans for seed and bullocks to the amount of Rs. 30,728 were also advanced to zamindars.

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