

Historical Statistical Monographs
on commercial crops of India
Poppy (Opium)

Gokhale Institute of Politics
and Economics

For limited circulation

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on Commercial Crops of India

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Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics,
Pune 411 004

The Economic History Section of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics proposes to prepare a series of historical statistical monographs on commercial crops of India. The first drafts are for limited circulation for scholarly comments, and the revised versions may later be brought out in appropriate form for general use.

The principal commercial crops that will be covered will be: Poppy, Tobacco, Tea, Coffee, Spices, Oilseeds, Cotton, Jute and Indigo, Sugarcane etc.

Ampler but much scattered statistical data are available on Indian commercial crops. Much of the available data are repetitive, and there are likely to be gaps in some series. It is attempted through the proposed monographs to locate as many relevant series for each crop as possible and present the selected ones in a meaningful order. In order to be more useful, the monograph will include a historical introduction, crop maps, explanatory appendices etc. The historical introduction to the crop will confine itself mainly to the statement of facts and figures, and broader issues like impact of colonialism on aspect of Indian economy etc. will be dealt with only briefly.

From a perusal of the relevant material it appears that the subjects covered by available series generally relate to: Area under cultivation; Yield; Production; Prices; Internal and External trade; and Revenue. The closing year for the series for these monographs will generally be about the year 1950. The starting year may vary from series to series depending on the availability of material. Indian crop statistics in stray form are broadly available in different works from about 1800 A.D. Statistics in the form of series, however, are available only from about 1850 A.D. and the starting year of a series differs for different crops depending on the commercial importance, in point of time, of each crop, and/or its revenue yielding capacity.

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or the weights and measures often differ in different works, one comes across, not rarely, inconsistencies in corresponding figures for the same crop, and for the same period, resulting in the diversity of available data, and a possible confusion therefrom. For the purposes of the present monographs, statistical series, collected from different sources will be presented with necessary changes, and edited with explanatory notes.

The present monograph consisting of about 140 pages on poppy, includes in all 59 statistical tables collected from 25 different sources and covers a period of 150 years, viz., from 1775 to 1927 A.D. It also includes five historical maps relating to poppy tracts, three of them (maps) being prepared specially for the present work. Extracts from the Report and minutes of evidences of the Royal Commission on Opium, 1893 are included in the Appendix because of their significance for better understanding of the subject.

Hema Rairkar assisted in the location of statistical data and the writing of historical introduction; and Anjali Nilangekar typed the entire draft diligently.

Scholarly comments and suggestions relating to the monograph are welcome, and may please be addressed to:

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Poppy (Opium)

Poppy cultivation and opium trade constituted important aspects of British colonial policy in India. The "opium period" in India lies roughly between 1757, the year of the battle of Plassy and 1925 when the second opium conference was held in Geneva. This period of a century and three quarters also corresponds with the expansion of imperialism in different parts of the world.

The history of poppy cultivation and opium trade in India and China, and the dominant role played in it by British trading interests offers a typical case of trading and administrative policies of British economic imperialism in the late eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries. The present monograph, however, has confined itself to the statement of relevant facts supported by available historical statistics. Discussion on broader issues like aspects of British economic imperialism and its impact on Indian economy are generally kept outside the scope of this monograph.

The present monograph is divided into two parts. Part I traces the history of opium in India and part II brings together the available historical statistics on opium.

In the case of opium no reliable figures are always available. The figures at time differed from one another, mainly because no reliable data could be gathered either by official or non-official agencies due to the element of adulteration and smuggling at each stage, viz., the cultivation of poppy, production of opium, and its trade. Smuggling of opium was prevalent both in export trade and in internal distribution.

Secondly, the official agencies engaged in the collection of data on poppy and opium were different having different interests. The official agencies collecting the statistical data for their own use were: departments of Agriculture, Revenue, Excise, and the Board of Trade.

The statistics compiled for this monograph was collected from various official and non-official sources. They have been duly acknowledged at appropriate places. The statistics which was readily available has been put together. The following important sources which could not be consulted at this preliminary stage of writing of the monograph are likely to be useful for filling in the gaps and strengthening of the statistical data in some cases :

- 1) Government of India. Committee to enquire into the working of the Opium Department in Bengal and the North Western Provinces (Chairman: H.G.Reynolds) : Report. (Calcutta: Official, 1883). Part I of this work contains history of opium in India from Mughal period.
- 2) Reports or Proceedings of the Board of Customs, Salt and Opium,
- 3) Revenue Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
- 4) Opium Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
- 5) Opium Proceedings of the Board of Trade.

Item numbers 2 to 5 mentioned here are unpublished archival records of the Government of India.

The following five maps showing opium tracts are included in the monograph: 1) India, 2) Rajputana - Malwa Opium, 3) Central India, 4) Benares, 5) Bihar. Map numbers 1 to 3 have been specially prepared for the monograph. Map numbers 4 and 5 are reproduced from Royal Commission on Opium, 1893, Vol. II Appendix 5; Appendix 17 (p, 40) also includes opium map of India.

1. Introduction of poppy in India

Poppy was grown as a garden plant and its medicinal properties were known during the early European classic periods of Greece and Rome. It was the Arabs who were mainly responsible for spreading the drug in eastern countries. Sanskrit and other Indian names for opium are traceable to the semitic origin. However, it should be mentioned here that species of Papaver were found wild in Asia, and that even earlier

to the European classic periods of Greece and Rome, people in Asia had recognised the value of these plants as vegetables, as sources of oil or as medicines. Several species of papaver were available in India "some very plentifully".¹

From early times, the Arab traders had introduced the consumption of opium in India, but their influence was mostly limited to the coastal regions. It was only in the fifteenth century that the cultivation of poppy was introduced into India in the regions of Malwa and Cambay. During the time of Mughal emperor Akbar (1556-1605) Malwa opium was a characteristic feature of that country. Abul Fazl, adviser and historian of Akbar, noted that poppy was chiefly grown in Fatehpur, Allahabad, and Ghazipur. The districts from which the 'Benares Agency Opium' was later formed were in Abul Fazl's time included in the subahs of Agra, Oudh and Allahabad. The subah of Allahabad comprised of nearly the whole of the districts of Fatehpur, Allahabad, Benares, Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Balda, also parts of the districts of Jalaun, Hamirpur, Banda, Kanpur, Partabgarh and Azamgarh. One does not come across any mention of poppy cultivation in Bihar in earlier period.²

Poppy was not, however, a principal crop in Akbar's time. It was during the days of the East India Company that poppy cultivation gained importance. The two main regions of the crop were Bengal and Malwa (See Appendix). Punjab also produced poppy but there opium was consumed locally. So also throughout the length of the Himalayan region poppy was grown but it was only consumed locally, and hence in these regions too, poppy was not important commercially.

2. Area under cultivation

Northern India and Bengal: Important poppy growing regions in Northern India in the 17th century were Agra, Allahabad, Oudh, Lahore, Multan etc. In course of time in the 18th century the cultivation expanded. Captain Alexander Hamilton

in his book A new account of the East Indies, (first published 1727; ed by W. Foster, 1930) observed that Patna (Bihar) produced large amount of opium that was exported to different parts of India. In the eighteenth century, Bengal also shared in the growing prosperity of the opium trade. According to Ram Chandra Pandit who was connected with the supply of opium in Bihar and Benares to the East India Company for a long time after 1773, it was the competition among the English, French and Dutch traders that brought prosperity to the opium trade and stimulated the cultivation of poppy in those regions.³

Under the British government, the subject of opium was under the direction of the Board of Revenue till the beginning of the year 1793, and afterwards it was transferred to the Board of Trade. Regulation No. 32 was passed in respect of the terms of the contract for the provision of opium in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa for four years from 1st September 1793 to 31st August 1797. It included measures for the protection of the cultivators of poppy and for prevention of illicit trade in opium. In March 1795 Regulation No. 32 was extended for the province of Benares in respect of the provision of opium for four years. In 1797 these provisions were enacted into a separate Regulation. According to it, the cultivation of poppy was restricted to Bihar and Benares and discontinued in Bengal. On 11th July 1799, Regulation No. 6 was passed which was later modified in 1807. According to this Regulation the cultivation of poppy, except on account of government, was prohibited. Independence of the ryot or cultivator to enter into engagements on account of government at a settled price or to decline it altogether, was however, maintained.⁴

Control on poppy cultivation: At the end of the eighteenth century the British government adopted the policy of opium monopoly in India. In the early days of the monopoly the British government discouraged expansion of poppy cultivation. During this period the following three main principles were followed by government: 1) restriction of internal consumption, 2) confining poppy cultivation to selected regions

best suited to it, 3) raising larger revenue from export trade. The land under poppy remained around 45,500 bighas upto the year 1818-19 (See table 1). The policy of discouraging poppy cultivation faced a challenge from the expansion of poppy cultivation in Malwa. The British government was not successful in imposing monopoly on Malwa opium trade. Also, there was illicit opium trade in Bengal. To face the situation the government adopted a double-edged policy around 1830's : a transit duty on Malwa opium and a vigorous drive for expansion in poppy cultivation in Bengal. Within the ten years from 1818-19 upto 1828-29 the area under poppy increased 2.7 times (1818-19 = 46,492 bighas, 1828-29 = 1,27,180 bighas, See table 1). The evidence of Langford Kennedy given before the select committee of the British Parliament on the Affairs of the East India Company in 1832, reveals the policy of the government clearly. Kennedy told the committee that the area under poppy was doubled in his district during 1821-31. In his efforts to expand the land under poppy, he got wells dug at the expense of government for the purpose of irrigating the lands. Kennedy further told that the poppy cultivation was extended to the area which was used for the cultivation of tobacco and potatoes. Tobacco, potato and poppy were the crops which required the richest type of land. He further told the committee that the cultivation of poppy was very much extended not only in his collectorate but also in other collectorates in which the poppy was produced.⁵ This was directly the result of rising export prices in Bengal. The opium export price in Bengal had risen to great extent. The price per chest was Rs. 470 in 1787-88 which went upto as high as Rs. 4,283 in 1820-21 (See table 42).

Around the year 1839 the attitude of the Chinese government was changing and they took certain strict steps against the import of opium in their country. Hence, there arose uncertainty regarding the opium export trade. Consequently, the area under poppy decreased to 2,09,977 bighas in 1841-42 (See table 1). From 1841 the atmosphere changed and a member

of the Opium Board could write: "no necessity, whatever, exists for the longer continuance of such restrictions (on cultivation). The Calcutta market now steadily carries off all our supplies at prices which leave a net profit to government of upwards of 120 per cent."⁶ Area under poppy also started expanding. In 1842-43 it was 2,54,134 bighas and it went upto 2,96,282 in 1845-46 (See table 1).

For about twenty years from 1845, the government was changing its policy regarding the area to be allowed for poppy cultivation. The question was about the desirable acreage for the cultivation of poppy. Lieut. Governor Beadon wrote in a minute of 1865: "The object of the government is to realise from Bengal opium the largest net price within such limits that it shall not fall so low as to effect the pass duty of Rs. 600 a chest on Malwa opium (See table 40), or rise so high as to encourage competition in the China market."⁷ A policy was formulated to eliminate all uncertainty as to the quantity of opium to be supplied in the market. It was thought that 48,000 chests of opium would be an adequate quantity and around 750 thousand bighas or 4,68,000 acres, would produce it. Any step that would tend to contract the area under cultivation or diminish the supply of opium was most seriously to be deprecated.⁸ Though it was decided in 1867 that around 4,68,000 acres of land should be under poppy cultivation, the fluctuating nature of acreage of land under poppy continued to some extent upto 1892-93 (See table 1).

Bihar and Benares were the two 'agencies' which cultivated poppy in British India. Barring one or two years' exception the area under poppy was more in Bihar Opium Agency as compared to the Benares Agency (See table 2).

In the year 1904-05, when the trade in opium with China was at its height, 6,13,996 acres were under poppy cultivation. Shortly thereafter, due to the fall in opium trade the area of poppy cultivation also contracted (See table 1).

Central India: In Central India, the poppy producing areas belonged to princely states. It has been rather difficult to locate the data of poppy cultivation in regard to this area. Tables 3 and 4 show the statewise figures of acres under poppy cultivation. Total area in Rajputana State under poppy was 1,34,080 acres (average of 1890 to 1895) (See table 3), and in other states the total area was 2,83,439 acres (average of 1890 to 1895) (See table 4).

3. Poppy yield

The data regarding poppy yield is available to some extent from the time of Akbar (1556-1605). The poppy season at different places were supposed to undergo a cycle of 19 years comprising of good and bad years. In Akbar's time highest and lowest rent for land under poppy for different subhas were fixed accordingly as shown below:

Fixation of poppy rent according to yield-periods
(in Akbar's time)⁹

Subha	Highest yield period	Rent rate per bigha		Lowest yield period	Rent rate per bigha	
		(Rs)	(As)		(Rs)	(As)
Agra	1st to the 4th year	4	0	10th to the 19th year	3	4
Allahabad	"	4	0	9th year	3	4
Oudh	"	4	0	"	3	4
Delhi	6th to the 9th year	3	8	1st to the 5th year	2	11
Lahore	1st to the 4th year	4	0	11th year	2	8
Multan	10th year	3	4	12th to the 14th year	2	8
Malwa	15th to the 19th year	2	8	1st to 9th year	1	4

Poppy yield showed the same fluctuating character as in

the case of area under poppy. Average produce per bigha went upto 9 seers in 1846-47 in case of Patna district (See table 5). In the case of Bihar Agency, there was no uniformity in yield in different districts. The highest yield was about 8 seers per bigha and the lowest was about 1 seer per bigha during the period of 10 years, 1849 to 1859 (See table 6). If figures for Bihar and Benares agencies are compared, no uniformity in the nature of yield is found. During some years the Bihar Agency had more yield, and in course of other years, Benares Agency had more yield than Bihar. (See table 7). After 1860 the yield did not increase roughly above 6.5 seers per bigha in either of the agencies (See table 7).

4. Opium monopoly

The practice of 'Opium monopoly' dates back to the Mughal period. The Mughal government farmed out the opium trade on "an exclusive privilege for an annual payment in advance".¹⁰ With the fall of the Mughal power early in the 18th century, opium monopoly too came to an end. A group of Patna merchants who had the exclusive right of purchasing opium from the producers, sold opium first to the Dutch; the English were admitted to a share later on at a much higher price. Ram Chandra Pandit, connected with the trade, pointed out that the English conflict with the Bengal Nawabs helped considerably the Dutch traders in consolidating their position. But the Dutch supremacy in the trade declined as the English became politically powerful after the battle of Plassey (1757).¹¹

Monopoly of opium trade by the servants of the East India Company at Patna for their private profits had already begun in 1761. This was replaced by the system of govern-

mental monopoly in 1773, when the subject of the Patna opium trade came to be discussed by Warren Hastings and his Council in India and by the Directors of the East India Company in England. The only question was between a state monopoly and free trade. Warren Hastings decided in favour of state monopoly for following reasons: 1) to raise the revenue for the Company's territorial government, 2) to keep the agents of the foreign European companies and interlopers of British or other European nationalities away from dealing directly with the poppy cultivators in the interior, as direct dealings led to disorders and oppression, which the administration was not strong enough to check, 3) to keep up the quality of the drug, as free trade and competition were thought to lead to great adulteration by the cultivators, 4) to have power to regulate or restrict internal consumption if necessary.¹²

Under this system the production of poppy was farmed out to opium contractors. They were to sell to the government at a fixed price all the opium that they would manufacture. In the beginning the farming out was done annually but from 1781 it was changed to a four year period. An opium contractor tried to make as much profit as possible out of his short lease. Consequently, the ryots came to be oppressed and were often forced to cultivate more poppy against their will. Formerly, the area under poppy cultivation depended to some extent on the relative prices of foodgrains and opium. As far as possible the peasants avoided poppy growing, as it required more laborious and costly operations. Those of the peasants who chose to grow poppy received loans from the private monopolists.

After the introduction of the East India Company's policy of monopoly in 1773, the cultivation of poppy no longer remained free. According to the new system, poppy was to be grown only for the government, and only on those fields thought fit by the government. Any poppy cultivated against these rules was liable to be destroyed. The poppy cultivator was obliged to take advances for growing the crop

and was obliged to supply a stipulated minimum quality of poppy to the government through the contractor. Any illicit production or sales of opium was severely dealt with.

The contract system continued upto the year 1797. It had encouraged corruption of officials by the contractors, inadequate remuneration to the cultivators and the consequent adulteration by the latter. In 1797, therefore, the government decided to take over the entire opium administration, and established the Opium Agencies for the purpose. The Agency System remained in operation without material changes upto the end of the 19th century.

In accordance with the terms of the renewed Charter granted to the East India Company in 1833, its monopoly of the China trade was withdrawn in 1834; and all traders were made free to enter the opium trade.¹³

5. Trade

The early British traders and administrators were always in search of commodities useful for their trade. This led them to trading in any commodity even if it produced pernicious consequences for the local population. Opium was one such commodity.

Opium trade, as mentioned above, was prevalent in India even in the early sixteenth century. At the time of the decay of the Mughal empire, the trade went mainly in the hands of the Dutch. The Dutch control declined after the battle of Plassey (1757), after which the British traders consolidated their position in Bengal. More important than this suppression of the Dutch by the British were the particular trade relations which had developed between Great Britain, China and India. In the Anglo-Chinese trade the balance of trade was unfavourable for Great Britain, which imported tea and silk in large quantities. In 1785 over 15 million pounds of Chinese tea were sold in England.¹⁴ Against this, exports from Britain were insignificant. The East India Company was

bitterly criticised in England, as against the imported tea, England had to export large amount of bullion. In this situation two Indian products came to rescue, namely, raw cotton and opium. Indian cotton trade with China did not gain much importance (See table 21). Opium, however, consolidated the East India Company's position in the China trade. The general decline of the Canton trade in the cotton staple was substituted by the rising trade in opium.¹⁵

The trade in opium came to assume greater significance in course of time. A pamphleteer wrote: "From the opium trade the Hon'ble Co. have derived for years an immense revenue and through them the British government and nation have also reaped an incalculable amount of political and financial advantage. The term of the balance of trade between Great Britain and China in favour of the former has enabled India to increase ten-fold her consumption of British manufacture; contributed directly to support the vast fabric of British dominion in the East to defray the expenses of His Majesty's establishment in India and by the operation of exchanges and remittances in teas, to pour an abundant revenue into the British exchequer and benefit the nation to an extent of £ 6 million yearly without impoverishing India. Therefore, the Company has done everything in its power to foster the opium trade."¹⁶

The Europeans did not introduce the drug to China, but they organised its production and distribution upon a large scale. In this enterprise the East India Company took the lead. The Company had monopoly of the manufacture and sale of the "Patna" and "Benares" varieties of Bengal opium and managed its production so well that the Company's trade-mark was accepted by the Chinese as a hallmark of quality. "It was Company's policy to confine itself to the production of opium in India and not to participate in its distribution in China. The Company developed its alternative method of providing funds at Canton and left the distribution of opium in China to private country merchants. The latter bought the opium at the Company's public sales in Calcutta and carried

it to its destination in their country ships, which sailed by licence of the Company. By 1800, the East India Company had perfected the technique of growing opium in India and selling opium to China".¹⁷ (See tables 15 and 16 for the expanding trade in Indian opium with China).

In China itself, on the other hand, the drug was prohibited both from being imported and from being smoked, by repeated edicts-imperial and local. There were two obstacles in the way of any effective suppression on the Chinese side, namely, a corrupt mandarin and a weak navy. Corruption went to such an extent that the 'smug boats' which delivered the opium were often boats of Mandarins themselves, whose assigned function was to prevent smuggling in sea-trade. W.S. Davidson declared that in his days nothing could be more simple than to smuggle opium in China.¹⁸ Proceedings of the Board of Trade (opium) collected also some figures of confiscated opium (See table 14).

Malwa, a fertile region under different princely states in Central India, started producing during the first quarter of the 19th century enormously increasing quantities of opium (See tables 17, 18, 19). This had its effect on the East India Company's opium policy in India. At around 1817 the high price of Bengal opium led to the introduction of cheaper substitute. In 1816-17 and 1817-18 the price of chest of Bengal opium was \$ 1320 and \$ 1330 respectively, while the price of chest of Malwa opium was \$ 950 and \$ 800 respectively (See table 46). Cheapness of Malwa opium created the possibility of large-scale operation outside the control of the Company. This also invited the attention of the large-scale dealers.

The rise of export in Malwa opium presented a challenge to the Directors of the East India Company; it caused anxiety to the Select Committee at Canton. Between 1821 and 1831 the East India Company tried to control Malwa shipment by various methods. In 1831, a new permanent method was devised. Malwa opium was now permitted to be shipped through Bombay port in

whatever quantity by private traders on the payment of a transit duty of Rs. 175 per chest.

The British government, thereafter, had to abandon, reluctantly though, its policy of restricted production and high prices, and change over to a policy of maximum production in both British India and the princely states. This meant flooding of China with cheap opium from Bengal and Malwa. The increase in production and export of Indian opium may be seen from the relevant tables (See tables 9, 22, 23). The British, in any case, were not ready to abandon so important a source of revenue. A Member said in the British Parliament, "We cannot afford to examine into the righteousness of the thing. Are we to throw away a million sterling on account of fine drawn scruples? Smuggling trade, is it? We know that, but we cannot give up so flourishing a revenue. The Chinese emperor objects? Then let him stop the trade if he can!"¹⁹

The Chinese emperor and his government resisted for a long time the smuggled opium trade carried on in China. Finally the Chinese took courage in their hands and challenged the British forces, which culminated in the First Opium War (1839-42) fought between China and Britain. The peace came in 1842. Its terms included on the Chinese side an indemnity, the cession of Hongkong to the British, the throwing open of five ports for free foreign trade and imposition of 'fair' tariff rates. The opium trade, however, was not legalised. The whole traffic during this period was covered by a veil of secrecy and mystery.²⁰ The result of all this was that the import of Indian opium into China grew with enormously increasing rate.

The treaty of Nanking, 1842, did not really settle the conflict between the Chinese government and the British smugglers. After the Second Opium War of 1856-60, the treaty of 1860 legalized the opium traffic though it contained no direct reference to opium apparently because the Earl of Elgin 'was ashamed' to propose the subject.²¹

The opium production in India increased gradually and

was little affected by the internal political developments. (See tables 10-13). Consequently, exports from India also increased. Table 21 shows that after every crisis there was an increase in the amount of opium exported. Tables relating to export trade reveal the increase in opium exports from India. Opium had its important position in the total merchandize exported from British India. Table 25 shows that from 1849 to 1888, i.e., for 39 years, the opium export constituted ten per cent or more of the total exports from British India.

The British government of India had plenipotentiary powers over a number of dependencies and this was made full use of in pushing up the opium exports.

By the year 1912-13, Indian opium exported to 'China Treaty Ports' increased to worth £ 32,42,902, but decreased to £ 24,00,870 in Hongkong. The decreased trade was compensated for by Japan becoming a purchaser in 1912-13 to the extent of £ 1,29,545 and the total value increased and stood at £ 74,81,088.²²

Unrestricted opium trade with China came to an end in 1907 when India agreed to abolish the China trade. The following year the government of India concluded the 'ten years' agreement with China, according to the terms of which India was to reduce her opium exports to China by ten per cent each year pari passu with China's reduction of poppy cultivation within her own borders. By 1913 China had so effectively suppressed her poppy cultivation that India discontinued her export without waiting for the expiration of the ten year period, thereby losing an annual revenue of approximately four million pounds a year.

In 1915, the government of India restricted the Calcutta auctions in opium market. Further, the government of India made other governments ordering Indian opium directly responsible for limiting their imports. The Hague Convention (1912) stipulated that the "governments should take measures to prevent the export of raw opium to countries which have

prohibited its entry". The League of Nations created the Advisory Committee on opium for administering the provision of the Hague Convention and introduced a system of import and export certificates. At the time of the International Opium Conferences in 1925 India had already abolished the trade in opium with China, had restricted the Calcutta auction, and had regulated her exports.²³

6. Opium revenue

Earning of revenue was the only consideration in the opium policy of the British government. Many of the officers of the East India Company revealed this on different occasions. Even a Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Affairs of the East India Company, 1832, was not ready to give up this important source of revenue. Tables 34-37 show the growth and decline of the opium revenue. In 1792-93 the opium revenue in India was £ 2,92,751. Within hundred years, i.e., in 1892, it became £ 80,12,380. Thus the opium revenue increased by 27 times, and in hundred years its importance as a part of the total revenue of British India had also not lessened. In the beginning the percentage of opium revenue in the total revenue of British India was around 2 to 5, but gradually over the years the percentage figure went above 10, and in 1858 it reached to 21. Therefore, it was not surprising that the imperial government was extremely conscious of protecting the trade of opium in order to augment its own revenue.

Table 38 gives the details of opium revenue of British India for the years 1880-81 to 1892-93. The opium revenue collected under different sub-heads shows the enormous nature of different transactions. The transit duties were imposed on Malwa opium at Bombay. The rate of this duty went on increasing since its imposition barring few years. (See tables 39, 40).

7. Prices

The available opium price statistics consist mainly of two types: 1) sale price or export price and 2) price paid to the cultivators.

Price figures for the year 1775 show the contract price of the opium to be supplied to the East India Company (See table 41) at different places, varying from 197 sicca rupees to 350 sicca rupees for a chest (of 2 maunds 76 sicca). The price statistics for opium when it was sold out of factory, for the years 1797-98 to 1826-27, is given in table 43. Opium prices in Bengal for the years 1787-88 and onwards are shown in tables 42, 44, 47, 51.

Opium prices in Bengal and Malwa for 1816-17 onwards are shown in table 46, and the prices in Malwa only are shown in table 48. Prices for India are shown in tables 45 and 52. The main observation about the price data could be its wide fluctuating character. Variations in average prices of Bengal opium ranged between Rs. 245 per chest in 1795-96 to Rs. 4,283 per chest in 1820-21 (See table 42). The period of 34 years from 1876 to 1910, however, shows some stability in prices. The price per chest of export opium in Bengal varied between Rs. 1023 per chest in 1889 to Rs. 1587 per chest in 1905 (See table 51).

Prices paid to the cultivators increased steadily over the period. Between 1797-98 to 1826-27, the cultivators received about Re. 1, annas 14 per chest (See table 43); from 1838-39 to 1858-59, the cultivators received about Rs. 3 and annas 8 per chest (See table 49), and from 1860-61 to 1892-93, they received between 4 to 5 rupees per chest (See Table 50).

8. Consumption

Long before the British conquest of India, opium was widely used throughout the country. The local governments

in British India were in charge of excise administration and opium, therefore, became a 'provincial subject'. A large proportion of opium used in India was prepared at Patna and Benares under the name of "Excise Opium". It was issued at cost price to the local administrations. From the district authorities it was issued to the licensed dealers on payment of excise dues. But in certain parts of India locally-grown opium was used or specially selected Malwa opium took the place of "Excise Opium" of Bengal Agencies. Table 57 shows provincewise revenue on consumption of opium in India during 1878-79 to 1889-90. From the table it will be seen that Assam, Burma, Bengal, Central Provinces and North Western Provinces were important consuming provinces of excise opium. Also, table 53 shows the quantity of excise opium distributed provincewise between 1873-74 and 1892-93. According to the data contained therein one finds that Assam, Bengal, North Western Provinces and Oudh and Burma were the provinces consuming large amounts of opium. Table 59 gives provincewise statistics for British India regarding consumption of opium per ten thousand population for 1922-23. It can be seen that the consumption was larger in Assam, Ajmer and Merwara, Burma and Bombay Presidency as compared to other regions. More detailed and varied statistics are available for the Bengal province. Table 54 gives statistics for opium revenue in Bengal for licence fees under different heads for 1873-74 to 1892-93. In twenty years the opium revenue increased from Rs. 84,602 to Rs. 5,86,249. Table 55 tells about the number of licences given, quantity of opium sold and revenue derived in Bengal from 1873-74 to 1892-93 under the different heads. The quantity sold increased by 189 maunds and the amount of revenue increased by Rs. 10,04,963, or by 162 per cent. Table 56 gives the number of chests of Excise Opium sold in Bengal from 1876 to 1920-21. During this period, the sales were doubled. Afterwards the quantity of excise opium sold started reducing. The amount of consumption of Malwa opium for the period 1883-84 to 1892-93 is given in table 59. We

find that within ten years the amount increased from 2,865 chests to 3,348 chests.

Fuller information regarding the consumption of opium in India may be had if we also take into account the coast-wise and internal trade of the commodity. During the year 1888-89 Bengal imported from the North Western Provinces and Oudh opium worth of Rs. 16,100 and the North Western Provinces, in its turn, imported from Bengal opium worth of Rs. 9,240. The Central Provinces, in the same year, imported opium worth of Rs. 2,24,750 from the North Western Provinces, and Assam imported opium worth of Rs. 1,08,000 from Calcutta. These were the chief transactions by land routes within the British Provinces. From Rajputana and Central India the following amounts of Opium were consigned to British provinces: Madras, Rs. 6,112 worth; Bombay, Rs. 4,24,532 worth; North Western Provinces, Rs. 6,960 worth; Central Provinces, Rs. 1,920 worth; and Berar, Rs. 2,21,318 worth. The imports into the chief seaports furnished the supplies from which exports to foreign countries were mainly drawn. During the above-mentioned year, Calcutta received from Bengal, opium of the value of Rs. 1,89,57,620, and from the North Western Provinces Rs. 2,07,32,970 worth. Bombay drew its supplies mainly from Rajputana and Central India worth of Rs. 4,65,81,524.

The statistics relating to movement of opium, by land routes and coast-wise, present a fairly accurate picture of the distribution of Indian consumption.²⁴

Position of the Government of India on opium consumption :

The conclusion arrived at by the Royal Commission on Opium, appointed in 1893, was as follows: "the consumption of opium obtains more or less extensively amongst the races, and in the localities most fully represented before the Commission. Little or no evidence was tendered from large districts where its non-medical use is little known... It is a vice in Calcutta and the large towns, but certainly not of the majority of the populations. It is common

amongst the Rajputs and to a less extent the Sikhs, but the sweeping statements made as to its universal use by them are quite untenable. Women are seldom addicted to the habit... The people of India do not so far as regards the greater part of that country, regard the use of opium for non-medical purposes favourable.²⁵

When international anti-opium movement gained strength, the Government of India maintained that the opium was used in rural India as one of the most common household remedies. This was the view put forth by the Indian representatives at the Hague Conference of 1912 and later at the meeting of the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Opium, and the International Opium Conferences held at Geneva, 1925.

The position taken by the government of India was untenable, for it was in the urban areas and the industrial centres where medical assistance was relatively more readily available that opium consumption was highest.

The Assam Congress Opium Inquiry Report showed that while the retail price of opium increased year by year, consumption showed no material reduction. Thus:

1) Price of opium in Assam²⁶ 2) Opium consumption in Assam²⁷

Year	Price (Rs. per seer)	Year	Consumption in maunds
1835	5	1875-76	1874
1860	14	1885-86	1446
1874	22	1895-96	1377
1884	32	1905-06	1415
1894	37	1915-16	1560
1904	37	1919-20	1748
1914	45		
1924	65		

In 1921, the Indian National Congress started the non-co-operation movement. Its workers in Assam preached

temperance in villages, held meetings all over the province and took advantage of social and religious gatherings where they carried the message of prohibition. As a result of their strenuous work the consumption of opium as well as that of ganja dropped to a considerable extent. The figures for consumption of opium and ganja in 1920-21 were 1614 maunds and 639 maunds respectively. In 1923-24 they dropped to 884 maunds and 334 maunds respectively.²⁸

The reform proposals brought forth at the World Conference held at Geneva in 1924-25 were grouped under two main heads:

1) **Complete** abolition of opium smoking, 2) **Reduction** of opium consumption to the medical and scientific needs of the world. Shortly thereafter opium lost its importance in Indian economy as an item of trade and as revenue earner to the government.

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 2. Ibid p 34
 3. Chowdhury 1964 pp 1-6
 4. RSCAEIC 1830 II Report Finance Accounts p 21
 5. RSCAEIC 1830 III Report Revenue pp 88, 90-91
 6. PBCSO 7th Feb No 7 1842 Trotter's Minute of 16th Nov 1841 quoted in Chowdhury 1964 p 21
 7. PBRD Feb No 53 1865 quoted in Chowdhury 1964 p 24
 8. PBRD Apr No 80 1867 quoted in Chowdhury 1964 p 25
 9. Watt Vol 6 Pt 1 p 34
 10. RSCAEIC 1812 p 1783
 11. Chowdhury 1964 p 3
 12. RRCO Vol 6 Memorandum II pp 120-33
 13. Dane pp 62-67
 14. Greenberg p 3
 15. Ibid p 94
 16. Warren quoted in Greenberg p 106
 17. Greenberg p 110
 18. Ibid p 111
 19. Turner p 67
 20. IAOA p 10
 21. Turner p 92
 22. IAOA p 77
 23. ORC pp 7, 8
 24. Watt Vol 6 Pt 1 pp 98-100, 104
 25. RRCO Pt 1 pp 150-51
 26. RACCEC p 24
 27. Ibid p 23
 28. Ibid p 29
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- ORC Opium Research Committee. The opium situation in India, recent development. Opium Research Committee of the Foreign Policy Association, National Head Quarters East 41st Street, New York city, 1926

- PBCSO Board of Customs, Salt and Opium,
Opium Proceedings
- PBRD Proceedings of the Revenue Department
of the Government of Bengal Branch,
Miscellaneous Revenue
- RACOEC Assam Congress Opium Enquiry Committee
(of the All India Congress Committee).
Report. (with app and extracts from
minutes of evidence). Kuladher
Chaliha Jorhat : (R.K.Hatibaru) 1925
- RIC Great Britain. Indigo Commission.
Report with evidence and app, 1860
4 Vols (W.S.Seton Karr) London :
Official, 1861
- RODA Report of the Administration of the
Opium Department (India)
- RRCO Great Britain. Royal Commission on
opium, 1893. Report with minutes of
evidence and appendix, 8 Vols (Lord
Brassey) London: Official, 1892 and
1895
- RSCAEIC - 1812 Great Britain. House of Commons,
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APPENDIX

(The matter contained in the Appendix that follows, is taken from the evidences submitted before the Royal Commission on Opium of 1893. It includes information relating to the tracts of poppy cultivation in different regions of India during the nineteenth century; opium administration; the process of preparing opium from poppy and the special features of Malwa Opium. Relevant annotations relating to the historical contents of the Report are given first)

Great Britain, Royal Commission on Opium, 1893.
Report with minutes of evidence and appendices. 8 Vols
(Chairman: Lord Brassey) London, 1894-95

The above work on opium contains at several places in its volumes important material of historical and statistical interest. Vol 7 pt 2 contains historical appendices. The following pages may be especially noted:

- i) Vol 2 Appendix K - D pp 360-79:
'Text of agreements now in force between the British Government and Native States under the political control of the Government of Bombay'.
- ii) Vol 2 Appendix 22 pp 425-26:
'Brief historical sketch of the law and rules regarding the supply and sale of excise opium in Lower Bengal', by Mr. Gupta, Commissioner of Excise, Bengal.
- iii) Vol 2 Appendix 23 p 426-35:
'A short account of the system under which excise opium and intoxicating drugs manufactured from excise opium are sold in the Lower Provinces of Bengal', by Mr. Gupta, Commissioner of Excise, Bengal.

- iv) Vol 6 Annexures, Memorandum II pp 120-133:
'On some historical aspects of the opium question in India and China', by J.B.Lyall.
- v) Vol 7 Pt 2 Appendix A pp 1-9:
'Note on the history of opium in India and of the trade in it with China', by Sir J.B.Lyall
- vi) Vol 7 Pt 2 Appendix B pp 28-63:
'Historical Memorandum', by R.M.Dane.

* * *

Opium produced in India: Extracts from the Report of the
Royal Commission on Opium, 1893

(All the following references refer to the above Report)

1. Poppy tracts

(Vol II Appendix IX pp 334-54: Note presented to the Govt. of India by Mr. Finley, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce):

Bengal Opium

"The tract in which the poppy is cultivated in Bengal comprises 11 districts in the west of the Lower Provinces, situated in the divisions of Patna, Bhagalpore and Chota Nagpur; and 29 districts of the North Western Provinces and Oudh. The former districts are in respect of opium under the control of the officer styled Opium Agent, Bihar whose head-quarters are at Patna. The latter are under the Opium Agent, Benares, whose head-quarters are at Ghazipur near Benares.

* * *

(Vol II Appendix V pp 319-20):

"For the purpose of administration, the Bihar Agency is divided into 11 divisions or sub-agencies and the Benares Agency into 16, the names of which are given below:

Bihar Agency

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Tirhut | 6. Bettiah |
| 2. Hajipur | 7. Shahabad |
| 3. Chapra | 8. Gaya |
| 4. Aliganj (Sewan) | 9. Tehta |
| 5. Motihari | 10. Patna |

Benares Agency

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Ghazipur | 9. Mainpuri |
| 2. Mirzapur | 10. Bareilly |
| 3. Azamgarh | 11. Sitapur |
| 4. Gorakhpur | 12. Lucknow |
| 5. Basti | 13. Fyzabad |
| 6. Allahabad | 14. Gonda |
| 7. Etawah | 15. Partabgarh |
| 8. Fategarh | 16. Rai Bareli |

* * *

Malwa Opium

(Vol II Appendix IX pp 334-54):

"'Malwa Opium' is produced in the Baroda state and in the following Native States in the Rajputana and Central India Agencies. It is not produced in British territory, except to a limited extent in the small tract of Ajmer-Merwara.

Central India Agency

Indore Residency

Indore
Dewas Senior Branch
Dewas Junior Branch
Bagli

Gwalior Residency

Gwalior

Bhopal Agency

Bhopal
Raigarh
Narsingarh
Khilchipur
Maskudangarh
Qurwai
Muhammadgarh
Basoda
Sutalia
Agra Barkhera
Kanapur
Dhabla Dhir
Dhabla Ghosi
Daria Kheri
Rajapur Kheri
Jabria Bhill
Tappa
Pataria
Pilliangar
Khajuri
Dugri
Sadan Kheri
Hirapur
Pathari
Datia
Panna
Ajiagarh
Baoni
Chhatarpur

Bundelkhand Agency

	Baraundha
	Paldeo
	Pahra
	Taraon
	Gawrihar
	Charkhari
	Bijawar
	Sarila
Baghelkhand Agency	Rewah
	Maihar
	Nagode
Western Malwa Agency	Jaora
	Rutlan
	Sailana
	Sitanau
	Piploda
	Panth Pipolda
Bhopawar Agency	Dhar
	Jhabua
	Barwani
	Ali Rajpur
	Jobat
	Bagode
	Ninkhera
	Kalibaori
	Rajgarh
	Bharupura
	Chiktiabar
	Manpur (British)
	Jannia
	Garhi
	Kothile
Goona Agency	Raghogarh
	Parone
	Gusra
	Umri

Bhadaura
Dharnaoda
Sirsi

Rajputana Agency

Maywar	Maywar
	Banswara
	Pertabgarh
	Dungarpore
Western Rajputana State	Marwar
	Jaisalmer
	Sirohi
Jeypore	Jeypore
	Kishengarh
Haraoti and Tonk	Bundi
	Tonk
	Aligarh
	Nimbakhera
	Chabra
	Parowa
	Sironj
	Shahpur
	Kothah
	Bikanir
	Jhallawar
	Ulwar
Eastern States	Bhurtpore
	Kerowle
	Dholepur

"In these states the British government has no concern whatever with the cultivation of the poppy or the manufacture of opium. Neither has it any concern with the export of the opium except that it levies a duty on opium which passes into

or through British territory either for local consumption in British India or for export by sea to China.

2. Administration

(Vol. II Appendix IX pp 334-54):

At Patna and Ghazipur there are two government factories at which the crude opium is manufactured into the form in which it passes into consumption. Subject to the immediate supervision of the opium Agents and their respective staffs, the cultivation of poppy and the manufacture of opium are regulated by Act XIII of 1857 under the general control of the Lt. Governor of Bengal and Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces. The possession, transport, import and export of opium are regulated by rules framed under section 5 Act I of 1878 (The Indian Opium Act).

"Cultivation is permitted only under licences granted under the authority of the Opium Agent. The area to be cultivated is fixed by the licence and the cultivator is bound to sell the whole of his outturn to the Opium Department at the rate fixed by government. This rate has since 1881-82 been Rs. 5 per seer of opium of 70 degrees consistency. Advances are given to the licensed cultivators on account of their crop, according to fixed rates at the time of executing the agreement and from time to time until final delivery. Interest is not charged on this advance. In March or April the opium is made over to the opium officers and weighed and tested and as soon as possible afterwards each cultivator's accounts are adjusted and the balance due is paid to him.

"After weighing the opium is taken to the government factories at Patna and Ghazipur where it is manufactured. The manufactured product is turned out in two* forms viz.,

* A small amount of opium for medical purposes is also made at Patna and at Ghazipur and codeia are made from opium not fit for other purposes.

a) that which is intended for export to China and the Straits Settlements technically known as "provision opium" and, b) that which is intended for consumption in India technically known as "excise opium". Provision opium is made up in the form of balls or cakes, each weighing 3.5 lbs. and is packed in chests each chest containing 40 cakes weighing $140\frac{1}{7}$ lbs. Excise opium is made up in cubical packets each weighing one seer. Provision opium is disposed of by public auction in Calcutta. In June of each year a notification is published stating the number of chests from each agency which will be put up to sale in each month of the following calendar year, and the quantities so notified are not altered without three months notice. The quantities depend on the amount manufactured and the reserve stock.

"Excise opium is distributed from the factories or from the Calcutta warehouse to the Government Treasuries whence it is issued on payment to the licensed vendors. For purpose of account a sum of Rs. 7.4.0 per seer out of the proceeds of this opium is credited under the head of opium as representing the cost price. The remainder of the proceeds is credited under excise.

"Passes are granted after weighment of the opium at scales maintained by the opium agents. The three principal scales are maintained at Indore in Central India, at Ajmir in Rajputana and at Ahmedabad in the Bombay Presidency."

* * *

(Vol II Appendix V pp 319-20) :

Bihar Agency and Benares Agency are divided into sub-agencies. "Each sub-agency is controlled by an officer called a Sub-Deputy Opium Agent who is immediately subordinate to the Opium Agent. Under the provisions of Act XIII of 1857, collectors of opium producing districts are ex-officio Deputy Opium Agents. In practice, however, Deputy Opium Agents take no part in the administration of the Departments. Besides the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent there are in the Bihar Agency 12 and in the Benares Agency 34 Assistant Sub-Deputy

Opium Agents".

Some of these agents are in independent charge of important sub-division. The subordinate native establishments in the Opium Department may be classified under two heads, viz., 1) office establishments whose duties are mainly clerical, and 2) sub-divisional or kothee establishments whose duties are principally executive under the former class. In the Bihar Agency the native officer immediately subordinate to the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent is styled the Native Assistant. He is paid a fixed salary and also receives a commission, calculated on the outturn of the season's crop.

Among the kothee or sub-divisional establishment, the gunastha is the principal officer. He is in charge of a sub-division, or what is more commonly called a kothee. In the Bihar Agency where the salary paid is very much smaller than in Benares the gunastha receives a fixed pay and commission on the quantity of good opium produced in his kothee. The gunastha is assisted by muharris (some of whom are styled matsaddis) or native writers and zilladars or patrols. The muharris receive a commission on the outturn of the kothee in addition to their pay. Each zilladar has the immediate supervision of the villages in his beat usually comprising a group of villages. In the Benares Agency the gunastha receives no commission, his salary being fixed at a higher rate than in the Bihar Agency to compensate him for the want of commission.

Poppy plant which produces the opium is cultivated under a system of licenses and advances made through a headman, known in the Bihar Agency as the khattadar and in the Benares Agency as the lumbardar chosen by the cultivators in one or more villages. The first operation of the opium year (1st September to 31st August) is the "settlement" or engagement with the cultivators for a certain amount of land to be sown with poppy. The lumbardar in Benares and the khattadar in Bihar, when coming into engage (the cultivators), brings with him a list of the cultivators who have agreed with to

grow opium. Either then or at some future time when the list of actual cultivators who have received advances is complete, licenses are prepared for each individual cultivator and signed by the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent or his assistant, filled up according to the names in the final list for distribution to the cultivators engaging. Forms of counterpart are also issued to the lunbardar or khattadar, as case may be, in the same way and he is held responsible for having them filled up and returned to the opium officer. Though the cultivators' licenses are granted separately and individually all the cultivators under one khattadar are allowed for the sake of convenience to execute jointly one counterpart or kabuliyat, the signature being duly attested.

In the Bihar Agency two advances are sanctioned for the cultivation of the poppy, before the opium is brought in for weighment. The first advance is given at the time of entering into engagement with the cultivators; the second in January or February after the crop is sufficiently advanced and the prospects are considered favourable. The rates at which these advances are given are as follows:

In the Bihar Agency:

For irrigated lands	For non-irrigated lands
First Advance	
Not exceeding Rs. 5 per bigha	Not exceeding Rs. 4 per bigha
Second Advance	
Not exceeding Rs. 4 per bigha	Not exceeding Rs. 4 per bigha

In the Benares Agency the rate of the first advance is regulated as far as possible by three years' average yield per bigha of a license the following scale being adopted:

Average yield per bigha	Advances per bigha (Rs.)
Three seers and under	5
Over three seers and under 5 seers	6
Between 5 and 6 seers	7
Six seers and above	8

The second advance is not usually given in the Benares Agency, but where it is, the amount is so regulated that the total of the first and second does not exceed Rs. 8 per bigha.

These advances are distributed to the cultivators in the Bihar Agency principally through the khattadars, but in the Benares Agency where the system of dealing directly with the cultivators themselves is more fully in vogue, the payments are made to the cultivators direct, as far as possible. The advances are adjusted at the time of the delivery of the opium.

Advances are also made to the cultivators for the construction of payment masonry wells and for digging small temporary wells unprotected by masonry, for the purpose of irrigating their fields. The advances made for wells are repayable by installments.

3. Process of opium production

(Vol II Appendix V pp 319-20) :

Having received their advances the cultivators proceed to prepare and sow their lands. The seed is sown generally between the middle of October and the end of November. About January and February the poppy plants begin to flower. As soon as the flowers mature, the petals are collected and made up into what are known as "leaf". The leaves are prepared by placing the petals in an earthenware plate over a slow fire covered by a damp cloth and pressing them by means of a cloth pad until the steam acting upon the resinous matter contained in the petals, causes them to adhere together, and form a thin round cake varying from 6 to 12 inches in diameter. The leaves are delivered to the Sub-Deputy Opium Agents, and are paid for according to quality, at the rate of Rs. 10, Rs. 7 and Rs. 5 per maund for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class respectively. After delivery, the leaves are sent to the Factory, where they are used in making the outer shell

or envelope of the opium balls. The quantity of leaves yearly required is regulated by the probable outturn of opium and the balance of the article in stock.

The dried leaves and thinner portion of the stalks of the poppy plants, broken up fine from what is known as trash, which is used after being thoroughly sifted and cleaned, for packing the balls of provision opium for exportation. It is paid for in the Bihar Agency at the rate of 6 annas per maund, a small conveyance charge per maund is also allowed. In the Benares Agency the price paid for trash is 12 annas per maund, but here no allowance is made for conveyance charges. The average annual requirements of trash in the two agencies is as given below:

Bihar Agency	...	18,245 mds.
Benares Agency	...	26,118 mds.

After the petals have been taken off and the capsules allowed to ripen, they are ready for the extraction of the juice. The capsules are lanced vertically in the afternoon at intervals of 3 or 4 days, with an instrument composed of three or four sharp iron blades tied together, incisions being sufficiently deep to let the juice flow freely from the shell of the capsule, without breaking through its inner wall into the receptacle for seed. The juice is then allowed to exude and coagulate on the capsule until the next morning, when it is scraped off. The scrapings are collected in shallow brass or earthen vessels and tilted up so as to allow of a black shiny substance called 'pusewa' which is formed under certain atmospheric conditions to drain off. This "pusewa" is separately collected and it is taken over from the cultivators by the Department at the rate of Rs. 3-8 per seer. On the care with which the 'pusewa' is separated from the drug depends to a great extent the purity of the opium delivered. The drug is periodically turned over and manipulated until the time fixed for its weighment, usually about the middle of April. The cultivators are summoned in regular order to certain appointed weighing places, where the weighment of

the opium is conducted under the direct supervision of the gazetted officers of the Department. The drug is classified according to its consistence by the officer in charge who also examines it for adulteration. The good opium is paid for on delivery at the rate of Rs. 5 per seer of 70 degrees consistence.

After classification and weighment, the opium is placed in earthen jars, each capable of holding one maund (82 lbs.) which are then sealed and despatched to the factory.

On receipt of the opium at the factories the contents of each jar are separately classified according to consistence and tested both by hand and chemical tests.

The manufacture of provision opium i.e., opium intended for exportation usually begins about the end of April or the first week in May and proceed generally upto end of July. The only manufacturing process that is necessary is to so mix opium of different consistences as to get a standard consistence for the whole. This process is technically known as 'alligation'. The standard consistence is 71 degrees at Ghazipur and 75 degrees at Patna. After the 'alligation' has been completed the opium is taken to the caking-room and there weighed out, 1 seer $7\frac{1}{2}$ chittacks for each cake or ball to be manufactured. The shell or outer covering of the cake which is composed of poppy leaves put together by means of a paste made of opium and pussewa mixed with water known as 'lewi', is manufactured in hemispherical brass moulds and when finished it is a sphere about the size of a 24 lbs.

The opium prepared for local consumption in India is called excise or abkari opium. The opium is dried by exposure to the sun, until its consistence is raised to 90 degrees, owing to the evaporation of the moisture in the drug. It is then weighed into quantities of one seer (about 2 lbs.) which are pressed in moulds into square cakes. The cakes are wrapped in Nepal paper slightly oiled to prevent adhesion and packed in boxes containing 60 each.

4. Malwa Opium
(Vol. VI Part 1 pp 24-47) :

Meaning of the term Malwa :

The term Malwa has been used in the evidence recorded by us with several different meanings, which required to be distinguished. Geographically the name belongs to the fertile table-land of Central India. Within this tract of which the district round Indore may roughly be taken as the centre, lie the important opium producing states of Central India and it is to this tract, where the conditions of climate and soil are peculiarly favourable to the cultivation of the poppy, that the witnesses refer when they speak of production or consumption of opium in Malwa. The name is used by some few witnesses in a more restricted sense, as meaning the Malwa Province of the Gwalior state, the dominions of the Maharaja of Sindhia, in contradiction to the other provinces of that state which are not situated in the larger region known as Malwa. But in its general relation to opium, the term has acquired what is practically a trade signification as covering the opium which is brought into British territory, under the pass-duty system to be described further on whether for local consumption within that territory or for export to China and the Far East. In this sense the term includes opium produced in any of the states of Central India, whether within or without the limits of Malwa proper, opium produced in the states of Rajputana and also opium produced in the state of Baroda. These, therefore, are the states which will be dealt with under this head, and also the states in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Cutch, under the political control of the Bombay government which, owing to their geographical position, have been closely connected with the history and development of the Malwa trade and system.

The evidence regarding Baroda and other Native States under the political control of the Bombay government in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Cutch was recorded. The states in Gujarat and Kathiawar are very numerous and most of them are grouped under Agencies as shown in the table below, the Kathiawar Agency in

particular comprising a congeries of states chiefly of Rajput origin which vary very much in size and importance. Representatives of 16 Kathiawar states including Bhaunagar, Morvi, Gondal and Junagadh were examined.

Native states in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Cutch with their area and population (1891):

	Area in sq. miles	Population
1. States in Gujarat		
a) Cambay	350	89,722
b) States in the Palanpur Agency	7775	6,45,526
c) States in the Mahi Kantha Agency	9300	5,81,568
d) States in the Rewa Kantha Agency	4980	7,33,506
e) States in the Surat Agency	1051	1,81,208
2. States in Kathiawar	20559	27,52,404
3. Cutch	6500	5,58,415
	<u>50515</u>	<u>55,42,349</u>

Historical retrospect

In 1570 Emperor Akbar conquered the Gujarat Kingdom, Malwa was then made a province of Delhi empire. With the sixteenth century the nations on the western sea-board of Europe entered the field of eastern commerce in succession to Venice and the Mediterranean cities, and the account given by various European travellers and writers during this century clearly show that there was an established Native trade in opium from the west coast of India with China, Malacca and other places as early as the beginning of the century. It will be seen that they speak of opium as coming chiefly from Cambay or the kingdom of Cambay and as being a regular article of trade at the port of Cambay. For the greater part of this period Cambay was included in the kingdom of Gujarat to which these writers no doubt refer and it seems certain that the opium spoken of was actually produced in Malwa

As already stated Malwa was incorporated in the Delhi empire about 1570 and in Ain-i-Akbari compiled by Abul Fazl in 1590, opium is recorded as a staple product of the Malwa Province (Malwa Province of Moghul empire included a part of Rajputana and also the territory outside Malwa proper now comprised within the Central India Agency).

The special position occupied by the Portuguese in the history of the Malwa opium trade deserves separate mention. Early in the sixteenth century they acquired Goa, and some few years later they planted fortified settlements on the upper line of the west coast of India at Daman about 100 miles north of Bombay and at Diu. During the greater part of this century the Portuguese held a marked supremacy in eastern commerce. From an early date they acquired a large share in the opium trade from the west of India to the far east, where they established themselves at Malacca and later at Macao. Towards the end of the century they were losing the predominance in eastern commerce, to which during the seventeenth century, the Dutch succeeded for a time; but they appear to have always maintained their connexion with the Malwa opium trade to the far east; and Daman and Diu on account of their situation with reference to Malwa played an important part in this trade well into the present century.

At the beginning of the present century (19th) the attention of the government of India was directed to the trade in opium from the west of India of which little or nothing then seemed to be known at Calcutta. The Bombay government was, therefore, requested to have a full inquiry made into the origin, circumstances and course of this trade. The inquiry showed that in the Company's own territories and also in the Native States in the Bombay Presidency, a considerable internal and external trade was being carried on in opium coming from Malwa. As to the origin of this trade nothing very definite was ascertained, but as to its antiquity the evidence from all sources was unanimous. The Bombay Custom Master reported in letter dated the 22nd November 1803, that it was a generally received opinion among the Native

merchants that the spread had existed for centuries back, while the Collector of Surat, writing in September of the same year, stated that from information obtained from the oldest and most respectable merchants of that city as well as from Custom House recorded, it appeared that "opium has been an article of traffic ever since Surat has been a place of trade from time immemorial". The Malwa opium was said to be exported by sea to Arabia and Persia from the ports of Kathiawar and to the Malay coast and China as well as to Malabar and other places in India from the Company's port of Surat, while Cambay, Jambusar and Broach were also mentioned as places to which opium was sent for export from the interior. The inquiry further made it clear that the habit of consuming opium was widely prevalent, especially in Gujarat, including Baroda and other Native States, as well as British territory.

In 1830 the Government of India recognised the Malwa opium trade and decided to allow the direct passage of Malwa opium to Bombay for export by sea under a system of pass duty and on payment of a fee. For the levy of this duty scales have been established in the charge of government officials at convenient centres and the opium after being weighted, is allowed to be forwarded under cover of a pass and with special precautions by one of the prescribed routes. The existing scales are at Ajmer under the management of the commissioner of Ajmer and Merwara at Indore and Ratlam, Dhar, Ujjain, Udaipur, Chittore, Jaora, Bhopal, Mandasaur under the administrative control of the Agent to the Governor-General Central India and at Ahmedabad under that of the Government of Bombay. At the present time the Ajmer scales are only used for the weighment of the opium that goes to Punjab for local consumption there, while the Ahmedabad scales are chiefly used for Baroda grown opium when sent to Bombay for foreign export.

Production of opium:

There are nineteen states in all in Rajputana, in five of which according to the evidence placed before us, no opium is

produced, while in six or seven others the production is relatively unimportant. The chief producing states are Meywar, Jhalwar, Kotah, Tonk and Pertabgarh.

In the opium producing states poppy cultivation is entirely free and the cultivators are at liberty to dispose of the produce as they may think fit. As a general practice, however, the crude opium collected by them from the poppy plants, which is locally termed "chik" is purchased by village money lenders, known as Bohras and Manotidars who are in the habit of advancing money on the crop. These village money lenders sell the crude opium to traders who arrange for its manufacture and who, in some cases, themselves deal direct with the cultivators. The opium is manufactured in the form in which it is sent to the China market at various places in Rajputana, the most important of which are Kotah, Patan in the Jhalwar state and Udaipur in Maywar, but the greater part of the opium goes to Indore for manufacture, when the time for export arrives, the chest are despatched to the nearest scale; the Maywar opium goes to Chittore, the Jhalwar opium to Vjjain in Central India and the Pertabgarh opium to Mandsaur, also in that province.

The tendency in most of these states has been to put as much of the irrigated area as possible under poppy, but the extent of this area varies with the amount of water in the wells, tanks or streams used for irrigation purpose and this depends on the character of the rainfall. The amount of poppy cultivation is also affected by marked fluctuations in the China market. But still there is a evidence to show that the poppy is still the most valuable crop that can be grown on good irrigated land. The light in which it is regarded by the cultivators themselves depend not only on the pecuniary value of the crop, but also on the fact that opium represents to them ready cash, enabling them to pay off their loans and obtain fresh advances.

Under the Central India Agency there are numerous states, some of which are entirely independent, subject only to the

suzerainty of the British government, while others have a less degree of independence. There are also numerous estates as they are termed, which in most cases are under the control of one of the independent states. For the purpose of this inquiry, these states and estates have been arranged in three groups in the first two of which are included all those that are situated within the limits of Malwa, 45 in number. For practical purposes, however, the 14 states which constitute the first group may be said to comprise all the chief opium producing states in Central India that have a substantial interest in the export trade. The area actually under poppy cultivation can only be given approximately, but the figures specially prepared by the states themselves to be placed before the commission are said to be more trust worthy than any information previously supplied by them. No restriction whatever is placed on the cultivation of the poppy, and all irrigated land capable of producing opium is assessed to land revenue on the assumption that this crop will be grown. In the more important states a fixed settlement of land revenue for some term of years is in force, so far as the land held direct from the state is concerned; but no record is maintained of the crop actually grown from year to year.

The system under which poppy is cultivated and opium manufactured is practically the same as in Rajputana. The opium juice, as extracted by the cultivators, is usually sold to a middleman or a money lender, who has often advanced money on the crop, and he in turn disposes of it to an opium trader who in some cases, may himself be the exporter. The chief centres of manufacture are at Indore where it is stated some 6000 chests are annually prepared from crude opium not produced within the limits of that state and at Ujjain in Gwalior territory. Opium is produced also at Bhopal, Dhar, Jaora and Ratlam at each of which places scales have been established, and at some other towns. In a number of states, however, there is no manufacture of opium for the export trade, the produce being taken away in its crude or unmanufactured state to one or other of these centres.

Opium was a staple crop in Malwa in the 16th century, and

must, therefore, have been cultivated long before that period the climate and soil are specially adopted to its production and the experience of centuries has proved its value. Through out the opium producing states, poppy is grown as a second crop in year in succession to maize and in this respect is said to occupy a unique position while apart from the price realised for the crude opium, the disposal of the poppy seeds and heads brings in money, and during the growth of the plants, the young leaves that are thinned off are used as a vegetable. The value of the poppy to the cultivator is further enhanced by the fact that the opium as extracted by him, commands an immediate cash price, and the crop is, therefore, regarded as a good security for the advance of money.

An opium monopoly was introduced in the Baroda state in 1878 on the lines of what is known as the Bengal Monopoly. Under this system the cultivation of the poppy, mainly with a view to secure proper control over it is confined to the northern or Kari division of the state, which had from the first been the chief seat of production, and is only permitted under license. The cultivators are required to make over the whole produce to the state authorities, and the crude opium is stored and manufactured at the town of Siddhpur, of late years, however, there has been no foreign export because, with the state management of the trade the pass duty has been thought to be prohibitive. The area under poppy for the production of opium for local consumption is about 5,000 acres.

* * *

5. Punjab opium

(Vol. II Appendix 9 pp 349-50)

The system in force in the Punjab differs materially from that in force in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces. The opium consumed locally is supplied from the following sources:

- a) Opium produced from poppy grown within the province.
- b) Opium produced in Kashmir and the Hill States under the political control of the Punjab Government and imported into the province, and also from independent territory west of the Indus.
- c) Bengal excise opium imported from the Ghazipore Factory.
- d) Malwa opium imported from Ajmere.

The cultivation of the poppy is permitted (under licenses for each crop) throughout the Punjab, except in the districts marginally noted,* where it has long been prohibited, the total area under poppy having usually been about 13,000 acres. There are, however, only five really opium-producing districts - Umballa, Simla, Kangra, Shahpur and Dera Ghazi Khan. In the remaining districts in which the plant is grown, opium is either not extracted or, if it is extracted, only a small amount of it becomes available for sale by licensed vendors, the rest being surreptitiously disposed of; and the produce is consumed in the shape of a drink called 'post' made from poppy-heads, either illicitly, or after passing through the hands of licensed vendors.

An acreage duty is levied on the cultivation of the poppy, at the rate of Rs. 2 per acre in the five chief opium producing districts and Gujrat, which adjoins Shahpur, and at the rate of Rs. 4 per acre in the rest of the province.

A cultivator is not permitted to consume any part of the produce of his crop himself. He is bound either (a) to dispose of it standing to a license-holder who extracts

* Delhi, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Hissar, the greater part of Karnal, and part of Ferozapore

the opium and sells it to a licensed wholesale or retail vendor, or (b) to extract the opium himself and dispose of it, or of the produce in the shape of poppy-heads, to a licensed retail or wholesale vendor.

Opium produced in the Hill States, in Kashmir, and in independent territory west of the Indus, is imported by wholesale vendors and is subject to no import duty.

M A P S

1. Opium Tract of India (C. 1750 - 1925)
(Specially prepared for this monograph. Map of 'Opium cultivation in British India' appearing in Royal Commission on Opium, 1893, Vol 2 App 17 p. 401 was also consulted)
2. Princely States of Rajputana Producing 'Malwa Opium' (C.1750 - 1925)
(Specially prepared for this monograph)
3. Princely States of Central India Producing 'Malwa Opium' (C. 1750 - 1925)
(Specially prepared for this monograph)
4. Benares Opium Agency (1893)
(Ref : Royal Commission on Opium, 1893, Vol. 2 Appendix 5 p 338)
5. Bihar Opium Agency (1893)
(Ref : Royal Commission on Opium, 1893, Vol. 2 Appendix 5 p 337)

Further particulars relating to map numbers 4 and 5:

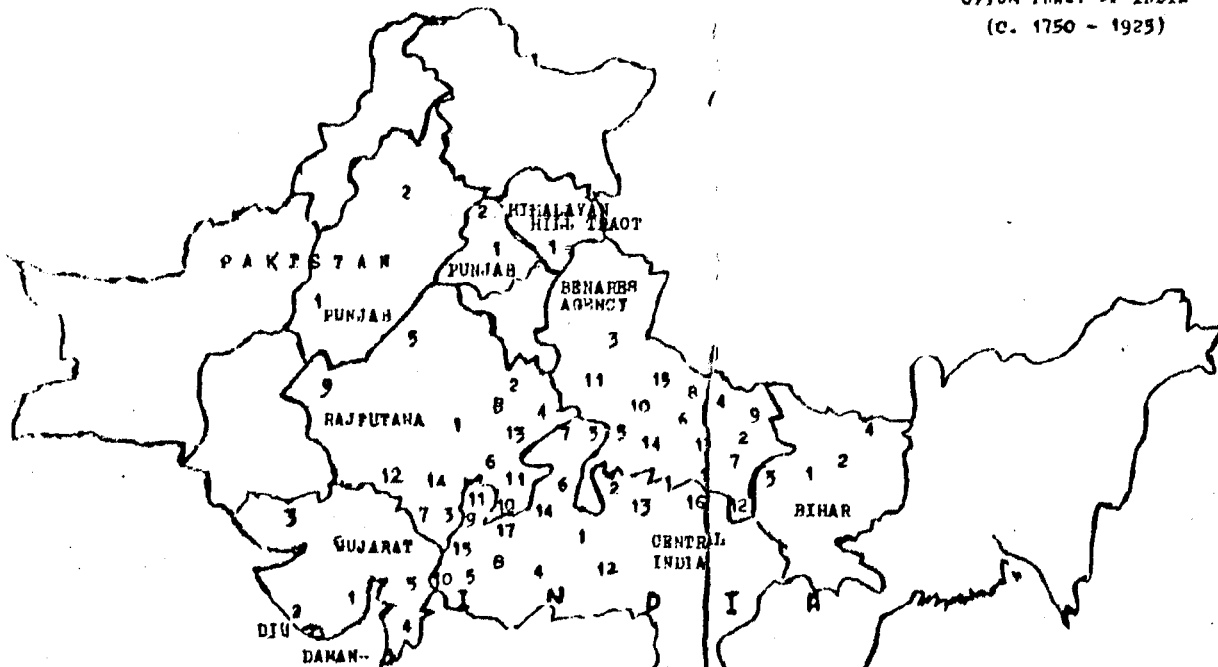
I Scales:

1. Mileage 1" = 32 miles
2. Produce (Red blocks) : 1" = 1600 Maunds
3. Cultivation (Green blocks) : 1" = 12000 Bighas

II Legend:

- ⌄ Balance indicates Weighment Places
- † Ball indicates Opium Sub-divisions (Kothis)

OPPIUM TRACT OF INDIA
(c. 1750 - 1925)



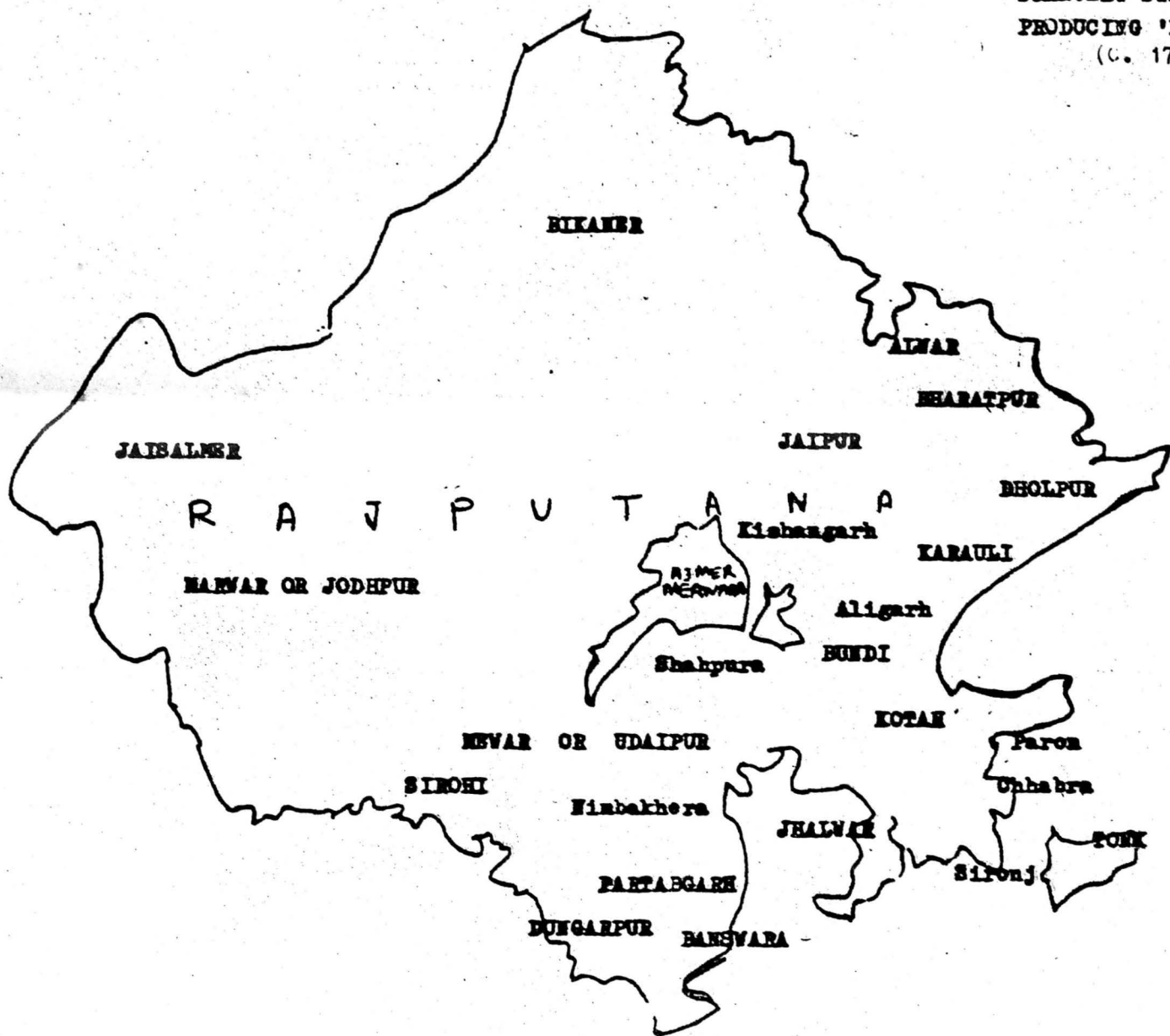
- BIHAR**
- 1 Gaya
 - 2 Patna
 - 3 Shahabad
 - 4 Tirhut

- CENTRAL INDIA**
- 1 Bhopal
 - 2 Chhatarpur
 - 3 Dehra
 - 4 Dewas
 - 5 Dhar
 - 6 Guna
 - 7 Gwalior
 - 8 Indore
 - 9 Jaora
 - 10 Jabhua
 - 11 Mandasor
 - 12 Narsimhpur
 - 13 Panua
 - 14 Rajgarh
 - 15 Ralia
 - 16 Rewa
 - 17 Ujjain
 - 1 DAMAN
 - 2 DIU

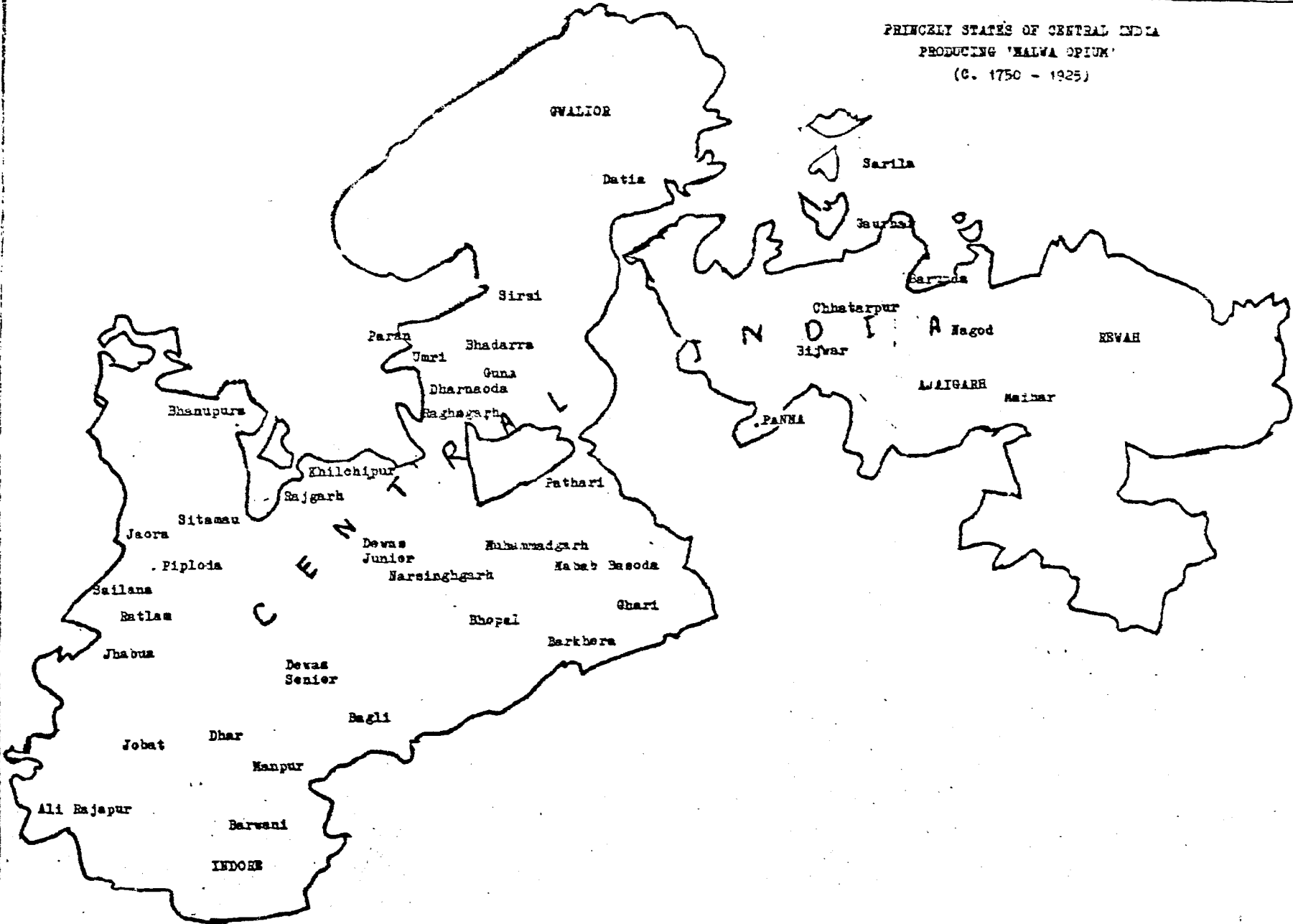
- GUJARAT**
- 1 Bhavnagar
 - 2 Junagadh
 - 3 Rutch
 - 4 Surat
 - 5 Vadodra (Baroda)
- HIMALAYAN HILL TRACT**
- 1 Siala
- PUNJAB**
- 1 Ambala
 - 2 Kangra
- PUNJAB (PAKISTAN)**
- 1 Dera Gazi Khan
 - 2 Shahapur

- RAJPUTANA**
- 1 Ajmer
 - 2 Alwar
 - 3 Banswara
 - 4 Bharatpur
 - 5 Bikaner
 - 6 Bundi
 - 7 Dungarpur
 - 8 Jaipur
 - 9 Jaisalmer
 - 10 Jhalwar
 - 11 Kota
 - 12 Sirohi
 - 13 Tonk
 - 14 Udaipur

PRINCELY STATES OF RAJPUTANA
PRODUCING 'MALWA OPIUM'
(c. 1750 - 1925)



PRINCIPAL STATES OF CENTRAL INDIA
PRODUCING 'MALWA OPIUM'
(C. 1750 - 1925)



STATISTICAL TABLES

Explanatory Note

Each table is compiled or reproduced from one or more works and is, sometimes, slightly edited for purposes of better and consistent presentation. Weights and measures are given as they appear in the original work. At the foot of each table is given the following bibliographical information : 1) Work from which the table, or part thereof is taken - indicated by the abbreviation 'Ref'; 2) Sources used in the work; 3) Additional information, if any, relating to the contents of the table.

For full forms for abbreviations for the works cited, see pp. 22-24 supra.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

As	Annas
Chs	Chattacks
Cwt	100 weights
lbs	Pounds
mds	Maunds
Ps	Paisas
Ref	Reference
Rs	Rupees
Sc Rs	Sicca Rupees
Srs	Seers

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Table 1: Area under poppy cultivation in Bengal,
1806-07 to 1920-21

Year	Area under poppy cultivation		Year	Area under poppy cultivation	
	Bighas	Acres		Bighas	Acres
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
1806-07	45584	...	1841-42	209977	...
1807-08	45579	...	1842-43	254134	...
1808-09	45736	...	1843-44	256355	...
1809-10	45540	...	1844-45	276724	...
1810-11	45537	...	1845-46	296282	...
1811-12	45358
1812-13	45620	...	:	:	:
1813-14	45737
1814-15	44117	...	1848-49	388044	242527
1815-16	46488	...	1849-50	373616	233510
1816-17	46518	...	1850-51	412173	257608
1817-18	46510	...	1851-52	460322	287701
1818-19	45492	...	1852-53	546031	341269
.	.	.	1853-54	616257	385161
:	:	.	1854-55	595711	372319
.	.	.	1855-56	582848	364280
1828-29	127181	...	1856-57	543897	339936
1829-30	142451	...	1857-58	400733	250458
1830-31	148080	...	1858-59	467646	292279
1831-32	153376	...	1859-60	434508	271567
1832-33	172489	...	1860-61	...	272086
1833-34	197252	...	1861-62	...	388228
1834-35	209172	...	1862-63	...	445221
1835-36	221984	...	1863-64	...	505408
1836-37	244154	...	1864-65	...	478241
1837-38	265703	...	1865-66	...	398644
1838-39	282792	...	1866-67	...	438798
1839-40	253096	...	1867-68	...	453159
1840-41	241632	...	1868-69	...	430863

Table 1 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
1869-70	...	485016	1889-90	...	482557
1870-71	...	515851	1890-91	...	501719
1871-72	...	535452	1891-92	...	463663
1872-73	...	509053	1892-93	...	454156
1873-74	...	456069	.	.	.
1874-75	...	543541	:	:	:
1875-76	...	530730	1904-05	...	613996
1876-77	...	556013	.	.	.
1877-78	...	467665	.	.	.
1878-79	...	506943	1911-12	321074	200672
1879-80	...	562261	1912-13	285220	178263
1880-81	...	536017	1913-14	231298	144561
1881-82	...	531275	1914-15	263857	164911
1882-83	...	495740	1915-16	267448	167155
1883-84	...	505843	1916-17	326697	204186
1884-85	...	565246	1917-18	331216	207010
1885-86	...	594921	1918-19	283399	177124
1886-87	...	562052	1919-20	247394	154621
1887-88	...	536607	1920-21	185689	116055
1888-89	...	459864			

Ref:

1806-07 to 1818-19 and 1828-29 to 1845-46:

Chowdhury, 1964 pp 18, 20, 21, 46

Sources :

1. Larkin's Minute of 20th June 1822, Board of Custon, Salt, Opium - op 12th July, No. 6 1822
2. Board of Custon, Salt, Opium, op 11th June No. 37 1839
3. Boards letter to Government, 9th Apr 1849 Board of Custon, Salt, Opium - op 22nd May No. 39 1850

Ref:

1848-49 to 1859-60:

Turner, p 307

Table 1 (contd)

Source:

Finance and Revenue Accounts, Nos 69 and 71

Ref:

1860-61 to 1889-90:

Watt, Vol 6 Pt 1 p 56

Ref:

1890-91 to 1892-93:

RRCO, Vol 2 Pt 2 p 325

Ref:

1904-05:

IAOA p 78

Ref:

1911-12 to 1920-21:

SA 1911-12 to 1920-21 Table No 69 p 140

Note:

Opium bigha = 27,225 sq feet or $\frac{5}{8}$ of an acre

Table 2: Area under poppy cultivation in the Bihar and Benares Opium Agencies, 1860-61 to 1889-90

Year	Area under poppy cultivation (Bighas)		Year	Area under poppy cultivation (Bighas)	
	Bihar Agency	Benares Agency		Bihar Agency	Benares Agency
1860-61	281126	154211	1875-76	470926	378242
1861-62	398251	222914	1876-77	517377	372245
1862-63	425353	287008	1877-78	405622	342663
1863-64	450552	358107	1878-79	415289	305820
1864-65	417344	347840	1879-80	461086	438531
1865-66	410505	227325	1880-81	434786	423265
1866-67	444530	257546	1881-82	460382	389659
1867-68	461675	265572	1882-83	394232	398952
1868-69	416554	287785	1883-84	399518	409831
1869-70	468584	307446	1884-85	433161	471232
1870-71	487550	337812	1885-86	453510	498360
1871-72	497801	358922	1886-87	458266	441018
1872-73	471780	342705	1887-88	447759	410813
1873-74	410278	319432	1888-89	405866	329917
1874-75	510313	359300	1889-90	398230	373861

Ref :

Chaudhuri, 1970 p 49

Source :

Report on the administration of the Opium Dept. for respective years.

Table 3: Area, population and acreage under poppy cultivation in the different native states in Rajputana, 1890-94

Name of State	Area in square miles	Population	Approximate* acreage under poppy cultivation (Average for 5 years 1890-94)
Jeypore	15349	2832276	3000
Maywar	12861	1862478	50000
Pertabgarh	959	87875	8383
Jhallawar	3043	343601	28625
Kotah	3803	526276	22765
Bundi	2225	295675	1871
Tonk	1415	198314	14010
Karauli	1229	156587	1180
Banswara	1505	180916	950
Kishengarh	874	125516	173
Dungarpore	1440	156000	2285
Dholpur	1156	279890	268
Shahpura	406	63646	570
Bharatpore	1961	640303	-
Bikanir	23090	831955	Nil
Jaissalmir	16039	115701	Nil
Marwar	34963	2521727	Nil
Sirohi	1966	188977	Nil
Ulwar	30512	767786	Nil
Total:	130268	12016102	134080

* Accurate statistics regarding the area under poppy cultivation and the yield of crude opium are not obtainable... figures specially prepared for the commission... accepted as approximately correct..."

Ref :

RRCO Vol 6 Pt 1 p 33

Table 4: Area, population and acreage under poppy cultivation in the opium producing states in Central India, 1890-94

Name of State	Area in square miles	Population	Approximate* acreage under poppy cultivation (average for 5 years 1890-94)
Gwalior	29047	3378774	113711
Indore	8400	1099990	76250
Bhopal	6784	952486	21753
Jaora	581	117650	10847
Ratlam	729	89160	9031
Dhar	1739	169474	9377
Estates Subordinate to Dhar		10486	
Narsingarh	720	117280	11038
Rajghar	642	119489	9174
Sitamau	350	33307	3076
Dewas (Junior Branch)	134	69684	5639
Dewas (Senior Branch)	155	82389	5658
Sailana	123	31512	3315
Khilchipur	204	36302	3104
Piploda	60	12792	1446
Total:	49668	6319775	283439

* Almost in all cases total area consists of Jagir Estates with regard to which the states themselves possess no accurate information.

Ref:

RRCO Vol 6 Pt 1 p 34

Table 5: Average production of opium per bigha in Patna district, 1839-40 to 1858-59

Year	Average production of opium per bigha		
	(Mds.)	(Srs)	(Chs)
1839-40	0	8	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
1840-41	0	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1841-42	0	6	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1842-43	0	5	9
1843-44	0	7	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
1844-45	0	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1845-46	0	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1846-47	0	9	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
1847-48	0	8	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
1848-49	0	7	11
1849-50	0	7	8
1850-51	0	6	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
1851-52	0	7	8
1852-53	0	7	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
1853-54	0	6	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1854-55	0	6	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
1855-56	0	6	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
1856-57	0	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
1857-58	0	6	13
1858-59	0	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Ref:

RIC Pt 2 Appendix p 381
(from R. King, Deputy Opium Agent, Patna)

Table 6: Average production of opium in Bihar Opium Agency -
districtwise, 1849-50 to 1858-59

Years District	1849-50		1850-51		1851-52		1852-53		1853-54	
(1)	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Tirhoot	4	$1\frac{3}{4}$	4	$1\frac{1}{2}$	4	$8\frac{1}{4}$	4	12	4	43
Chuprah	6	12	6	$14\frac{3}{4}$	8	3	8	$\frac{1}{4}$	8	$5\frac{3}{4}$
Allegunge	6	$1\frac{1}{4}$	6	$1\frac{1}{4}$	5	5	6	8	6	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Moteeharee	6	$4\frac{1}{4}$	5	$5\frac{1}{4}$	2	14	5	12	6	1
Bettiah	6	2	6	0	5	$\frac{3}{4}$	5	$15\frac{3}{4}$	6	$6\frac{3}{4}$
Shahabad	6	$14\frac{3}{4}$	6	$5\frac{1}{4}$	7	$10\frac{1}{2}$	8	$3\frac{1}{4}$	7	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Gya	8	4	6	10	8	0	8	0	7	0
Tentah	8	$\frac{1}{2}$	7	$6\frac{3}{4}$	8	4	7	$9\frac{1}{2}$	6	6
Patna	7	8	6	$7\frac{1}{4}$	7	8	7	$13\frac{1}{2}$	6	$10\frac{3}{4}$
Bhaugulpore	5	$1\frac{1}{4}$	4	$5\frac{3}{4}$	4	15	4	$6\frac{1}{4}$	4	$8\frac{3}{4}$
Monghyr	6	$6\frac{1}{4}$	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	5	15	5	$4\frac{1}{4}$	5	$12\frac{1}{4}$
Hajeepore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Entire Agency	6	$1\frac{1}{4}$	5	$9\frac{3}{4}$	5	$6\frac{1}{4}$	6	$8\frac{3}{4}$	6	$5\frac{1}{2}$

Table 6 (contd)

1854-55		1855-56		1856-57		1857-58		1858-59	
(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)
(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)		(11)	
4	$6\frac{1}{4}$	3	$12\frac{1}{2}$	2	15	2	$14\frac{1}{4}$	1	$12\frac{1}{2}$
6	$7\frac{3}{4}$	6	$10\frac{3}{4}$	5	$9\frac{3}{4}$	6	$10\frac{3}{4}$	3	9
5	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	$4\frac{3}{4}$	3	$15\frac{3}{4}$	5	9	3	$7\frac{1}{2}$
4	$10\frac{1}{2}$	4	5	3	$14\frac{1}{2}$	5	$12\frac{3}{4}$	2	$15\frac{1}{2}$
5	$0\frac{1}{2}$	3	$13\frac{1}{2}$	3	$2\frac{1}{2}$	4	$12\frac{1}{2}$	2	$5\frac{1}{2}$
7	$3\frac{3}{4}$	7	$6\frac{1}{2}$	5	$12\frac{1}{2}$	7	4	4	$3\frac{3}{4}$
6	9	6	13	5	4	5	12	4	$12\frac{3}{4}$
7	3	6	10	5	$11\frac{1}{4}$	6	$11\frac{3}{4}$	5	0
6	$14\frac{3}{4}$	6	$15\frac{1}{4}$	5	$6\frac{1}{4}$	6	13	4	$5\frac{1}{2}$
3	$10\frac{1}{2}$	3	$11\frac{1}{2}$	2	$14\frac{3}{4}$	4	$6\frac{3}{4}$	-	-
4	9	5	8	4	5	5	4	4	$3\frac{3}{4}$
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	$7\frac{3}{4}$
5	$10\frac{1}{4}$	5	$8\frac{1}{2}$	4	$5\frac{3}{4}$	5	8	3	9
General average for 10 years - $5\frac{1}{4}$									

Ref :

RIC Part 2 Appendix p 389

(Behar Opium Agency, Patna 27 June 1860)

Table 7: Average production of opium in Bihar and Benares Agencies, 1860-61 to 1889-90

Year	Average production of opium per bigha			
	Bihar		Benares	
	(Srs)	(Chs)	(Srs)	(Chs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1860-61	4	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
1861-62	4	9	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1862-63	6	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1863-64	6	0	5	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
1864-65	4	8	4	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1865-66	4	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
1866-67	5	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1867-68	4	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	4	15
1868-69	4	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
1869-70	5	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1870-71	3	12	3	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1871-72	4	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1872-73	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	14
1873-74	5	15	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
1874-75	4	10	4	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
1875-76	5	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
1876-77	4	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
1877-78	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
1878-79	3	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
1879-80	4	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
1880-81	4	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4 $\frac{3}{4}$

Table 7 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1881-82	4	$4 \frac{3}{4}$	5	$4 \frac{1}{2}$
1882-83	2	12	4	3
1883-84	5	$15 \frac{1}{4}$	6	8
1884-85	5	$2 \frac{1}{4}$	6	10
1885-86	5	$4 \frac{1}{4}$	4	$15 \frac{1}{4}$
1886-87	4	$5 \frac{1}{4}$	5	$4 \frac{1}{4}$
1887-88	5	6	6	$2 \frac{3}{4}$
1888-89	3	$2 \frac{3}{4}$	4	3
1889-90	4	$3 \frac{1}{2}$	5	9
1890-91	6	12	4	8
1891-92	3	6	4	3
1892-93	4	2	5	0

Ref :

1860-61 - 1889-90:

Watt Vol 6 Pt 1 p 56

1890-91 - 1892-93:

RRCO Vol 2 Appendix 5 Table B p 325

Table 8: Average production of opium in Bengal,
1911-12 to 1920-21

Year	Production (Average per acre) (Seers)
1911-12	6.27
1912-13	6.01
1913-14	6.67
1914-15	6.86
1915-16	6.46
1916-17	6.29
1917-18	6.23
1918-19	6.17
1919-20	5.88
1920-21	4.94

Ref :

SA 1911-12 to 1920-21 Table 69 p 140

Table 9: Production of opium in Patna district (Bihar)
1839-40 to 1858-59

Year	Total quantity of opium produced (Mds)		
	Srs	Chs	
1839-40	2910	13	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
1840-41	2752	31	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1841-42	2311	12	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1842-43	2164	19	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
1843-44	3063	15	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1844-45	2975	17	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
1845-46	3679	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1846-47	4972	29	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
1847-48	5420	19	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1848-49	4945	12	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1849-50	4883	6	1
1850-51	4642	20	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
1851-52	6044	26	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1852-53	6755	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1853-54	6845	17	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
1854-55	6310	35	15
1855-56	6271	21	6
1856-57	4418	14	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
1857-58	5430	26	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1858-59	3364	6	1 $\frac{1}{4}$

Ref :

RIC P 381 (Letter of R. King, Statement C) signed
by R. King Sub-Deputy Opium Agent 12 June 1860

Table 10: Production of opium in Bengal, 1848-49 to 1889-90

Year	Opium produced in maunds	No. of Abkari chests made	No. of provision chests made
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1848-49	62944	398 $\frac{1}{3}$	35385
1849-50	60935	898 $\frac{1}{3}$	34419
1850-51	61053	1412 $\frac{1}{3}$	33563
1851-52	70598	867	39465
1852-53	87457	1043 $\frac{1}{2}$	48322
1853-54	96278	1213 $\frac{2}{3}$	53321
1854-55	78796	1432 $\frac{2}{3}$	44441 $\frac{1}{2}$
1855-56	78895	1833 $\frac{11}{12}$	43907
1856-57	59975	1604 $\frac{1}{3}$	32693
1857-58	54867	3353 $\frac{1}{12}$	27175 $\frac{1}{2}$
1858-59	41329	1668 $\frac{1}{2}$	21367
1859-60	41230	2182 $\frac{2}{3}$	21427
1860-61	58168	3107 $\frac{1}{3}$	29398
1861-62	75044	3019 $\frac{2}{3}$	39656
1862-63	93583	3190	49727
1863-64	119517	2622	64269
1864-65	86276	2384	47785
1865-66	81327	4157	40901
1866-67	93136	4596	48895
1867-68	83750	5277	43610
1868-69	86019	4458	46894 $\frac{2}{5}$
1869-70	99124	2579	54072 $\frac{7}{40}$

Table 10 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1870-71	76739	3114	40981 $\frac{1}{5}$
1871-72	81431	3431	42975
1872-73	88104	4016 $\frac{1}{2}$	45770
1873-74	103862	3637 $\frac{1}{2}$	54716
1874-75	98178	3892 $\frac{1}{4}$	51754
1875-76	128817	3972 $\frac{1}{2}$	68051
1876-77	125256	4326	67167
1877-78	79383	4261	43140
1878-79	97905	5605 $\frac{1}{2}$	49961
1879-80	99070	4221	52969
1880-81	94798	4378	49733
1881-82	100889	3959 $\frac{1}{2}$	54039
1882-83	69287	591 $\frac{1}{6}$	38214
1883-84	126597	2146 $\frac{1}{3}$	65993
1884-85	133803	4321 $\frac{5}{12}$	64930
1885-86	121500	2291	64500
1886-87	107577	2831 $\frac{1}{2}$	57500
1887-88	123043	3367	69500
1888-89	67732	3485	38305
1889-90	95868	6320	44760

Ref:

1848-49 - 1859-60:

Turner p 307 (Finance and Revenue Accounts Nos 69 and 71)

1860-61 - 1889-90:

Watt Vol 6 Pt 1 p 56

Table 11: Production of opium in Bengal, 1873-74 to 1892-93

Year	Opium Production		Total (Mds)
	Bihar Agency (Mds)	Benares Agency (Mds)	
1873-74	60861	43000	103861
1874-75	58977	39201	98178
1875-76	68407	60113	128817
1876-77	63694	61562	125256
1877-78	34002	45381	79383
1878-79	41268	56637	97905
1879-80	53594	45476	99070
1880-81	49292	45506	94799
1881-82	49440	51449	100889
1882-83	27074	42213	69287
1883-84	59560	67037	126597
1884-85	55802	78002	133804
1885-86	59865	61634	121499
1886-87	49582	57995	107577
1887-88	60192	62851	123043
1888-89	32234	35500	67734
1889-90	43147	52721	95868
1890-91	38725	44373	83098
1891-92	31935	38490	70425
1892-93	40339	42970	83309

Ref :

RRCO Vol 2 Appendix 5 Table C p 325

Table 12: Production of each kind of opium in Bengal,
1883-84 to 1892-93

Year	Bihar		Benares		Total	
	Provi- sion (chests)	Excise (mds)	Provi- sion (chests)	Excise (mds)	Provi- sion (chests)	Excise (mds)
1883-84	32850	1837	33143	5079	65993	6916
1884-85	32430	3991	32500	2468	64930	6459
1885-86	31500	2653	33000	5692	64500	8345
1886-87	29000	931	28500	4747	57500	5678
1887-88	35500	3289	34000	3950	69500	7239
1888-89	17500	1698	20805	4538	38305	6236
1889-90	17610	1914	27150	4197	44760	6111
1890-91	21834	5030	22688	3573	44522	8603
1891-92	20846	5098	12833	3937	33679	9035
1892-93	19927	1116	20579	2460	40506	3576

Ref :

RRCO Vol 2 Appendix 9 p 345

Note::

- 1) Figures relate to year of manufacture 1st Sept to 31st Aug.
- 2) 'Abkari' opium or 'Excise' opium was for consumption in India; 'Provision' opium was for export.

Table 13: Production of opium in Malwa, 1883-84 to 1892-93

Year	Indore (chests)	Ajmere (chests)	Ahmedabad (chests)	Total (chests)
1883-84	40275	186 $\frac{1}{4}$	882 $\frac{1}{2}$	41343 $\frac{3}{4}$
1884-85	40668 $\frac{1}{2}$	146 $\frac{1}{5}$	350 $\frac{1}{2}$	41165 $\frac{1}{5}$
1885-86	40516 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	40516 $\frac{1}{2}$
1886-87	42299	-	209 $\frac{1}{2}$	42508 $\frac{1}{2}$
1887-88	38416 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	482	38943 $\frac{1}{2}$
1888-89	31936 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	281 $\frac{1}{2}$	32231 $\frac{3}{4}$
1889-90	32079	187 $\frac{1}{3}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	32335 $\frac{5}{6}$
1890-91	31617	387 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	32120
1891-92	34269 $\frac{3}{4}$	392	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	34751 $\frac{1}{4}$
1892-93	30152	430	79	30661

Ref :

RRGO Vol 2 Appendix 9 p 347

Table 14: Quantity of opium confiscated and produced in Bengal and Bihar, 1802 to 1815

Year	Total quantity of opium confiscated in Bengal and Bihar			Total production (quantity legally allowed) (chests)
	(mds)	(srs)	(chs)	
1802	81	31	4	3496
1805	46	14	12	4061 $\frac{1}{2}$
1808	57	17	15	4263 $\frac{1}{2}$
1812	106	3	9	1977 $\frac{1}{2}$
1815	81	4	15	4261 $\frac{1}{2}$

Ref :

Balai p 131

Source :

Table prepared by the author from the data relating to confiscated opium scattered in the proceedings of Board of Trade, Opium.

Table 15: Export of opium from Benares to Murshidabad and Calcutta, 1775-76 to 1785-86

Year	Quantity (mds)	Remarks
1775-76	121	On private account
1776-77	349	"
1777-78	447	147 mds on private account and 300 mds for the East India Company
1778-79	800-960	Private and the East India Company
1779-80	800-960	"
1780-81	800-960	"
1781-82	?	Years of low yield - disorder and oppression after chest Sing's deposition
1782-83	?	
1783-84	626	Under the resident's management
1784-85	870	"
1785-86	841	"

Ref :

Mishra p 18

Source :

Patna Custom House Records for 1775-77 B.B.R.M.P. Range 97 Vols 18, 20, 22; J. Grant to Bengal Council 21 Aug 1789; B.R.C.; 9 Sept 1789, Range 51 Vols 45 pp 535-5; Graham to Barwell, 15 Jan 1777 SRO, GD 29/2137

Table 16: Export of Benares opium on account of the East India Company, 1786-87 to 1794-95

Year	Quantity (mds)	Percentage increase for 1786-87
1786-87	920	-
1787-88	948	3
1788-89	1036	13
1789-90	1146	25
1790-91	1502	63
1791-92	1676	82
1792-93	1770	92
1793-94	2302	150
1794-95	2302	227

Ref :

Mishra p 20

Source :

Duncan, to Governor General in Council, 15 Nov 1787, BRC 7 Dec 1787 Range 51, Vol 13 p 510; Duncan to Governor General, 6 Feb 1789, B.R.C. 25 Mar 1789 Range 51 Vol 33 p 649; Duncan to Governor General in Council 23 Nov 1789 in Selections from the Duncan Records, Vol II pp 168-9 B.B.R.M.R. (opium) 3 Dec 1790 Range 89 Vol 4 n.p. B.B.R.M.P. 3 Feb 1792, Range 89 Vol 15 No 2, B.B.R.M.P. 25-60 Feb 1793 Range 89; Vol 10 n.p. BPC (opium) 29 Nov 1793 Range 98 rd 28 n.p. BPC 28 Nov and 29 Dec 1794 Range 98 Vol 28 B.C.S.C. 31 May 1793 Range 156 Vol 6 p 521 Bangal General Journal Apr 1796 Range 176 Vol 41 p 471

Table 17: Shipment of opium from India and Turkey to China, 1880-81 to 1838-39

Year	Number of chests exported			
	Patna and Benares (chests)	Malwa (chests)	Turkey (chests)	Total (chests)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1800-01	3224	1346	-	4570
1801-02	1744	2203	-	3447
1802-03	2033	1259	-	3292
1803-04	2116	724	-	2840
1804-05	2322	837	-	3159
1805-06	2131	1705	102	3938
1806-07	2607	1519	180	4306
1807-08	3084	1124	150	4358
1808-09	3233	985	-	4208
1809-10	3074	1487	32	4593
1810-11	3592	1376	-	4968
1811-12	2788	2103	200	5091
1812-13	3328	1638	100	5066
1813-14	3213	1556	-	4769
1814-15	2999	674	-	3673
1815-16	2723	1507	80	4321
1816-17	3376	1242	488	5106
1817-18	2911	781	448	4140
1818-19	2575	977	807	4359
1819-20	1741	2265	180	4186
1820-21	2591	1653	-	4244
1821-22	3298	2278	383	5459
1822-23	3181	3855	-	7773
1823-24	3360	5535	140	9035
1824-25	5960	6663	411	12434
1825-26	3810	5563	-	9373
1826-27	6570	5605	56	12231
1827-28	6650	5504	-	12434

Table 17 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1828-29	4903	7709	1256	13868
1829-30	7443	8099	715	16257
1830-31	5672	12856	1428	18956
1831-32	6815	9333	402	16550
1832-33	7598	14007	380	21985
1833-34	7808	11715	963	20486
1834-35	10207	11678	?	21885
1835-36	14851	15351	?	30202
1836-37	12606	21427	243	34776
1837-38	19600	14773	?	34373
1838-39	18212	21988	?	40200

Ref :

Greenberg p 221

Source :

Morse's International Relations Vol 1

Table 18: Exports of opium from Bengal and Bombay and imports into Canton on British accounts, 1816-17 to 1840-41

Year	Imports to Canton					
	Patna & Benares		Malwa		Total	
	Chests	Value	Chests	Value	Chests	Value
		\$		\$		\$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1816-17	2610	3132000	600	525000	3210	3657000
1817-18	2530	3200450	1150	703800	3680	3904250
1818-19	3050	3050000	1530	1109250	4580	4159250
1819-20	2970	3667950	1630	1915250	4600	5583200
1820-21	3050	5795000	1720	2605800	4770	8400800
1821-22	2910	6038250	1718	2276350	4628	8314600
1822-23	1822	2828930	4000	5160000	5822	7988930
1823-24	2910	4656000	4172	3859100	7082	8515100
1824-25	2655	3119625	6000	4500000	8655	7619625
1825-26	3442	3141755	6179	4466450	9621	7608205
1826-27	3661	3668565	6308	5941520	9969	9610085
1827-28	5114	5105073	4361	5251760	9475	10356833
1828-29	5960	5604235	7171	6928880	13131	12533115
1829-30	7143	6149577	6857	5907580	14000	12057157
1830-31	6660	5789794	12100	7110237	18760	12900031
1831-32	5672	5484340	7831	5447355	13503	10931695
1832-33	8167	6551059	15403	8781700	23570	15332759
1833-34	8672	6545845	11114	7510695	19786	14056540
1834-35	7767	4431845	8749	5223125	16516	9654970
1835-36	11992	8838000	14208	8550622	26200	17388622
1836-37	8078	5848236	13430	8439694	21508	14287930
1837-38	6165	3903129	13875	6980028	20040	10883157
1838-39	-	-	-	-	-	-
1839-40	-	-	-	-	-	-
1840-41	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 18 (contd)

Exports from Bengal &
Bombay

Chests Profits by
 EIC
 (rupees)

(8)	(9)
4618	+
3692	-
3552	-
4006	-
4244	-
5576	-
7773	-
8895	-
12023	-
9373	-
12175	-
11154	-
15418	-
16877	-
17456	11012826
22138	13269945
19483	9742886
23902	11110385
21011	7768605
30202	14920068
34033	15349678
34373	15864440
40200	9531308
20619	3377775
34631	8742776

Ref :

Hsin-Pao-Chang p 223

Source :

- 1) Bowring, J. "Papers relative to the opium trade in China, 1842-1856". P.P. Despatch No 26 p 50
- 2) Statistical statements submitted to the Committee of the House of Commons on the East India Company's Affairs by Charles Marjoribanks in 1830
- 3) Statements of the British trade at Canton

Table 19: Exports of Indian opium to China - Macao, Whampoa, 1816-17 to 1820-21

	Macao		Whampoa		Total (Chests)
	Patna and Beneres (Chests)	Malwa (Chests)	Patna and Beneres (Chests)	Malwa (Chests)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1816-17	2200	350	760	350	3660
1817-18	1950	900	890	450	4190
1818-19	1820	1800	1500	750	5870
1819-20	1470	900	930	300	3600
1820-21	1513	930	814	50	3307

Unsold at the end of season		
Patna and Beneres (Chests)	Malwa (Chests)	Total (Chests)
(7)	(8)	(9)
-	-	400 to 500
-	-	400 to 500
-	-	1270
-	-	220
-	-	All sold

Ref : RSCAEIC-1830
 Revenue III pp 249
 Evidence by Cap. John Shepherd 25 June 1832
 Affairs of the East India Company and also appendix and index

Note :
 At the time of 1820-21 the Chinese authorities commenced vigorous measures against the smugglers at Whampoa and even threatened to search foreign vessels for opium which was the means of driving the trade outside the port to Lintin

Table 20: Exports of Indian opium to China, 1821-22 to 1830-31

Year	Opium imports			Unsold at the eand of season		
	Patna and Benares (chests)	Malwa (chests)	Total (chests)	Patna and Benares (chests)	Malwa (chests)	Total (chests)
1821-22	2910	2518	5428	300	800	1100
1822-23	1222	3950	5172	975	750	1725
1823-24	2910	5170	8080	1275	1748	3023
1824-25	2655	5400	8055	390	1148	1538
1825-26	4700	6043	10743	1645	966	2611
1826-27	3092	5773	8865	1017	432	1449
1827-28	6359	4752	11111	2242	783	3025
1828-29	4317	7092	11409	595	704	1299
1829-30	7671	7972	15643	1126	1586	2712
1830-31	7477	12631	20108	1943	2117	4060

Ref :

RSCAEIC-1830

Revenue III pp 249-50

Evidence by Cap. John Shepherd 25 June 1832

Affairs of the East India Company and also appendix and index

Note :

At the time of 1820-21 the Chinese authorities commenced vigorous measures against the smugglers at Whampoa and even threatened to search foreign vessels for opium which was the means of driving the trade outside the port to Lintin

Table 21: Export value of opium and cotton from India to China,
1821-25 to 1888-89

Period	Average annual exports				
	Opium (Rx)	Percentage of opium exports to total exports to China	Cotton (Rx)	Percentage of cotton exports to total exports to China	Total (Rx)
1821-25	1058252 (this for year 1827)	54	670455 (this for year 1825)	34	1950091
1833-35	1955236	66	878042	25	3014770
1837-39	3209958	69	1189162	25	4597476
1842-46	3712920	74	1097577	21	5013459
1854-58	6365319	72	673537	9	7333728
1859-62	9540211	87	1068745	9	10974650
1878-82	11909815	84	811461	5	14162788
1883-87	9770775	75	627572	4	13036266
1888-91	8207818	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	325318	2	13956065

Table 21 (contd)

Ref :

RRCO First Report (Evidence of Dr. McLaren) p 122

Source :

Continuous series of returns "India and China (export and import)" 38 session 2 - 1859; 347 - 1871 : and 224 - 1888

Notes :

- a) Rx is the sign for 10 rupees formerly equivalent to 1 £ or nearly so before the fall of exchange
- b) Total exports from India to China includes treasure, the balance of treasure imported from China to India over that exported from India to China for the 30 years between 1857 to 1887 was Rx 9,12,54,274 the returns consulted do not give treasure statistics of an earlier date

Remarks :

The following 'major events in China opium episode from 1821 to 1891' are shown in the original table against each period thus:

1833-35	E.I.Co monopoly expired in 1834
1837-39	Preceding the opium war
1842-46	After treaty of Nankin
1854-58	Preceding the Second China War
1859-62	After treaty of Teintsin
1878-82	Under Chefoo convention

Table 22: Exports of opium from India to China, 1827-28 to 1835-36

Year	Patna		Beneres		Malwa	
	(Chests)	(Amount \$)	(Chests)	(Amount \$)	(Chests)	(Amount \$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1827-28	4006	4019350	1128	1105805	4401	5299920
1828-29	4831	4574650	1130	1029585	7171	6928880
1829-30	5564	4820448	1579	1329129	6857	5907580
1830-31	5085	4454809	1575	1335395	12100	7114059
1831-32	4442	4234815	1518	1448194	8265	5818574
1832-33	6410	5115126	1880	1445603	15403 $\frac{1}{2}$	8781700
1833-34	7893	5023450	1642	1066459	11715	7916971
1834-35	7558	4368245	2549	1427604	9982	5962930
1835-36	9011	6713195	2005	1407510	15002	8986198

Total	
(Chests)	(Amount \$)
(8)	(9)
9535	10425075
13132	12533105
14000	12057157
18760	12904263
14225	11501584
23603 $\frac{1}{2}$	15352429
21250	14006605
20089	11758779
26018	17106903

Ref :

AJMR p 231

Source :

Canton price current

Table 23: Exports of Bihar opium and Benares opium from Calcutta, 1828-29 to 1837-38

	Bihar opium		Benares opium	
	Quantity (chests)	Value (Rs)	Quantity (chests)	Value (Rs)
1828-29	4817	6699346	1737	2319190
1829-30	6921	8734301	2757	3529427
1830-31	5118	7819952	1998	3081093
1831-32	5334	8406169	2173	3372662
1832-33	6457	8239948	2928	3691327
1833-34	7898	8230754	4032	4069393
1834-35	7767	7697937	3283	3157632
1835-36	9867	11776009	4940	5525971
1836-37	8291	12342988	4443	6001126
1837-38	12065	13663635	7242	7476622

Ref :

RSCEIP Appendix No 6 -furnished by James, C. Melvill,
Secretary East India House, 25th Mar 1840 pp 486-87

Table 24: Exports of Bengal and Malwa opium to China and other places, 1834-35 to 1873-74

Official Years	Exports from Bengal			Exports from Bombay to China (cheats)	Total exports (cheats)
	To China (cheats)	To Singapore, Penang etc. (cheats)	Total (cheats)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1834-35	9480	1570	11050	6812	17862
1835-36	13021	1786	14807	-	-
1836-37	10493	2241	12734	20882 $\frac{1}{2}$	33161 $\frac{1}{2}$
1837-38	16112	3195	19307	10372 $\frac{1}{2}$	29679 $\frac{1}{2}$
1838-39	14499	3722	18221	17353	35574
1839-40	3755	14755	18510	-	-
1840-41	5817	11593	17410	12022 $\frac{1}{2}$	29432 $\frac{1}{2}$
1841-42	10752	8987	19739	14473	34212
1842-43	11867	4651	16518	19369	35887
1843-44	13067	4792	17859	16944	34803
1844-45	14709	4083	18792	18150 $\frac{1}{2}$	36942 $\frac{1}{2}$
1845-46	16265	4288	20553	17770	38323
1846-47	20668	4322	24990	17389 $\frac{1}{2}$	42379 $\frac{1}{2}$
1847-48	19434	4443	23877	19391	43268
1848-49	27870	4417	32287	21392 $\frac{1}{4}$	53679 $\frac{1}{4}$
1849-50	30996	4097	35093	16513	51606
1850-51	28892	4010	32902	19138	52040
1851-52	27921	4385	32306	28168 $\frac{1}{2}$	60474 $\frac{1}{2}$
1852-53	31433	4745	36178	24979 $\frac{1}{2}$	61157 $\frac{1}{2}$
1853-54	33941	6854	40795	26113 $\frac{1}{2}$	66908 $\frac{1}{2}$

Table 24 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1854-55	43952	7469	51421	25958 $\frac{1}{4}$	77379 $\frac{1}{4}$
1855-56	37851	7087	44938	25576	70514
1856-57	36459	5982	42441	29846 $\frac{1}{2}$	72287 $\frac{1}{2}$
1857-58	31878	6735	38613	36125 $\frac{1}{2}$	74738 $\frac{1}{2}$
1858-59	33858	827	34685	40849	75534
1859-60	22329	3621	25950	32534	58484
1860-61	15688	3621	19309	43691	63000
1861-62	21332	5240	26572	38680	65252
1862-63	25846	6815	32661	49485 $\frac{1}{2}$	82146 $\frac{1}{2}$
1863-64	33815	8806	42621	28210 $\frac{1}{2}$	70831 $\frac{1}{2}$
1864-65	41719	8484	50203	34213 $\frac{1}{2}$	84416 $\frac{1}{2}$
1865-66	42697	11576	54273	34166 $\frac{1}{2}$	88439 $\frac{1}{2}$
1866-67	37279	4478	41757	33081	74838
1867-68	40772	7484	48256	38883	87139
1868-69	37985	6281	44266	30683	74949
1869-70	43054	6680	49734	38694	88428
1870-71	40669	8054	48723	36436	85159
1871-72	41569	7886	49455	39334 $\frac{1}{2}$	88789 $\frac{1}{2}$
1872-73	34009	6476	40485	42369	82854
1873-74	34820	8517	43337	45301	88638

Ref :

Turner p 305

Source :

Finance and Revenue Account, No 65

Table 25: Value of opium exports from British India by sea to foreign countries, in British pounds or tens of 1849-1927

Year	Exports by sea		Percentage of opium export to total exports of all merchandise
	Opium	Total of all merchandise	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1849	5772536	16088502	35.88
1850	5973395	17312299	34.50
1851	5459135	18164150	30.05
1852	6515214	19879406	32.77
1853	7034075	20464633	34.37
1854	6437098	19295139	33.36
1855	6231278	18927222	32.92
1856	6200871	23038259	26.91
1857	7056630	25338451	27.85
1858	9106635	27456036	33.17
1859	10827642	29862871	36.26
1860	9054394	27960203	32.38
1861	10184713	32970605	30.89
1862	10553912	36317042	29.06
1863	12494128	47859645	26.10
1864	10756093	65625449	16.39
1865	9911804	68027010	14.57
1866	11122746	65491123	16.98
1867	10431703	41859994	24.92
1868	12330799	50045849	24.64
1869	10695654	53062165	20.16
1870	11693330	52471376	22.28
1871	10783863	55331825	19.49
1872	13365228	63185848	21.15
1873	11426280	55236295	20.69
1874	11341857	54960786	20.64
1875	11956972	56312261	21.23
1876	11148426	58045405	16.38

Table 25 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1877	12404748	60961632	20.35
1878	12374355	65185713	18.98
1879	12993985	60893611	21.34
1880	14323314	67173158	21.32
1881	13609148	74531282	18.26
1882	12432142	81901960	15.18
1883	11481379	83400865	13.77
1884	11294460	88121296	12.82
1885	10882606	83200528	13.08
1886	10735518	83827840	12.81
1887	11077669	88428660	12.53
1888	10067764	90471462	11.13
1889	10508082	96978171	10.83
1890	10115936	103396862	9.78
1891	9261814	100135722	9.24
1892	9562261	108036010	8.85
1893	9255014	106535997	8.68
1894	8019428	106447590	7.53
1895	9064665	108814999	8.33
1896	8459336	114263140	7.40
1897	8022923	103914297	7.72
1898	6097563	97537273	6.25
1899	7126009	112721473	6.32
1900	5469143	72650791	7.52
1901	5681990	80803275	7.03
1902	5344623	83919801	6.36
1903	6980110	99755597	7.00
1904	7082295	102760848	6.89
1905	6314512	105459482	5.99
1906	6205281	115625135	5.37
1907	5781652	115727127	5.00
1908	6232829	99904843	6.24
1909	6209105	122891479	5.05
1910	8509316	137080646	6.21

Table 25 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1911	8726060	147879063	
1912	13089100	221818600	5.90
1913	11221600	241348900	4.64
1914	3420000	244201500	1.40
1915	1763500	177485000	0.99
1916	1470200	192560700	0.76
1917	2096500	237098700	0.88
1918	2407700	233442800	1.03
1919	3129100	239325100	1.34
1920	1960300	312278900	0.62
1921	2526100	240012300	1.05
1922	2054200	231380100	0.88
1923	2448700	299161900	0.81
1924	2663100	348836100	0.77
1925	1472400	384665300	0.38
1926	1933700	374842100	0.51
1927	2118500	301435800	0.70

Ref :

SA	1840 to 1865	Table 33
	1858 to 1867	Table 23
	1860 to 1869	Table 24
	1868-69 to 1877-78	Table 53
	1875-76 to 1884-85	Table 73
	1884-85 to 1893-94	Table 117
	1890-91 to 1899-1900	Table 134
	1900-01 to 1909-10	Table 141
	1904-05 to 1913-14	Table 141
	1911-12 to 1920-21	Table 221
	1916-17 to 1926-27	Table 214

Note :

1849 to 1875 - measure is £
 1876 to 1894 - in tens of Rs.
 1895 to 1914 - measure is £
 1915 to 1927 - in tens of Rs.

Table 26: Exports of opium from Bengal and Malwa,
1852-53 to 1910-11

Exports of opium		
Year	Bengal (chests)	Malwa (chests)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1852-53	35521	27111
1853-54	42403	28473
1854-55	49979	24672
1855-56	49399	25999
1856-57	42272	29589
1857-58	40128	39797
1858-59	30871	42000
1859-60	35253	44002
1860-61	31263	40703
1861-62	24063	36000
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
1882-83	56400	36327
1883-84	54400	38586
1884-85	46698	39039
1885-86	50994	37677
1886-87	54750	39745
1887-88	57000	34884
1888-89	57000	30208
1889-90	57000	29029
1890-91	57000	28591
1891-92	56250	30654
1892-93	48852	27268
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
1904-05		19287
1905-06		14598 $\frac{1}{2}$

Table 26 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)
1906-07		13127
1907-08		16849
1908-09		33568 $\frac{1}{2}$
1909-10		18524
1910-11		1200 $\frac{1}{2}$

Ref :

Kibe p 85

Note :

Bengal opium is referred to as Government opium in the original table

Table 27: Exports of opium from British India,
1855-56 to 1867-68

Year	Opium exports (chests)
1855-56	70606
1856-57	72385
1857-58	74966
1858-59	75822
1859-60	58681
1860-61	63490
1861-62	65363
1862-63	82216
1863-64	70839
1864-65	84492
1865-66	88439
1866-67	74855
1867-68	87139

Ref :

RRCO Vol 2 Appendix 13 pp 390-91

Table 28: Exports of opium from Bengal and Malwa to different countries, 1859-60 to 1889-90

Year	Exports from India						
	Bengal opium (chests)				Malwa opium (chests)		
	To China	To Straits	To other countries	Total	To China	To other countries	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1859-60	22329	3483	148	25960	32534	197 $\frac{1}{2}$	32731 $\frac{1}{2}$
1860-61	15688	3810	10	19508	43691	265	43956
1861-62	21332	5192	48	26572	35680	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	35790 $\frac{1}{2}$
1862-63	25846	6784	31	32661	49485 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	49556
1863-64	33815	8766	40	42621	28210 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	28213
1864-65	40915	9288	74	50277	34213 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	34214
1865-66	42897	11549	27	54273	34166 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	34166 $\frac{1}{2}$
1866-67	37279	4444	34	41757	33081	17	33098
1867-68	41672	6352	22	48046	38883	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	38884 $\frac{1}{2}$
1868-69	37985	6167	103	44255	30690	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	30700 $\frac{1}{2}$
1869-70	43054	6680	228	49962	38716	7	38723
1870-71	39669	8054	292	48015	40992 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	41059 $\frac{1}{2}$
1871-72	41569	7843	43	49455	39334 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	39342
1872-73	34009	6438	38	40485	42369	80	42449
1873-74	34820	8464	53	43337	45301	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	45387 $\frac{1}{2}$
1874-75	36678	8939	91	45704	48845 $\frac{1}{2}$	188	49033 $\frac{1}{2}$
1875-76	35673	11005	90	46768	41517	9	41586
1876-77	37426	9701	194	47321	49430 $\frac{1}{2}$	121	49551
1877-78	40234	9357	115	49706	43083 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	43114
1878-79	45891	8881	159	54931	36262	10	36272

Table 28 (contd)

Exports from India							
Year	Bengal opium				Malwa opium		
	To China	To Straits	To other countries	Total	To China	To other countries	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1879-80	48722	10586	79	59387	46114 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	46121
1880-81	46767	9622	141	56530	35626	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	35662 $\frac{1}{2}$
1881-82	45731	10005	759	56495	32825 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	32845 $\frac{1}{2}$
1882-83	44961	10316	768	56045	35736 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	35755 $\frac{1}{2}$
1883-84	45498	7320	901	53719	38231	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	38245 $\frac{1}{2}$
1884-85	36714	10134	1046	47893	38679 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	38686
1885-86	39223	10728	1103	51054	36892 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	36901 $\frac{1}{2}$
1886-87	41920	11396	1300	54616	41204 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	41222 $\frac{1}{2}$
1887-88	43128	12368	889	56385	33687	24	33711
1888-89	42493	13995	870	57358	30398	33	30431
1889-90	40942	13749	1294	55985	29160	21	29181

(9) Total exports (total of (5) and (8))							
Year	Chests	Year	Chests	Year	Chests	Year	Chests
1859-60	58691 $\frac{1}{2}$	1867-68	86930 $\frac{1}{2}$	1875-76	88354	1883-84	91964 $\frac{1}{2}$
1860-61	63464	1868-69	74955 $\frac{1}{2}$	1876-77	96872 $\frac{1}{2}$	1884-85	86580
1861-62	62326 $\frac{1}{2}$	1869-70	88685	1877-78	92820	1885-86	87955 $\frac{1}{2}$
1862-63	82217	1870-71	89074 $\frac{1}{2}$	1878-79	91203	1886-87	95838 $\frac{1}{2}$
1863-64	70834	1871-72	88797	1879-80	105508	1887-88	90096
1864-65	84491	1872-73	82934	1880-81	92192 $\frac{1}{2}$	1888-89	87789
1865-66	88439 $\frac{1}{2}$	1873-74	88724 $\frac{1}{2}$	1881-82	89340 $\frac{1}{2}$	1889-90	85166
1866-67	74855	1874-75	94737 $\frac{1}{2}$	1882-83	91800 $\frac{1}{2}$		

Table 29: Exports of opium from British India, 1869 to 1927

Year	Opium exports	Year	Opium exports
1869	74955 (Chests)	1899	92827 (Cwt)
1870	88683	1900	93378
1871	85518	1901	96881
1872	93364	1902	92417
1873	82908	1903	94842
1874	88727	1904	102494
1875	94746	1905	93844
1876	88350	1906	89247
1877	130775	1907	94449
1878	92820	1908	89976
1879	91200	1909	93728
1880	105507	1910	79659
1881	92190	1911	63030
1882	89338	1912	52945
1883	91798	1913	43505
1884	91963	1914	16858
1885	86578	1915	15912
1886	120995 (Cwt)	1916	12878
1887	131630	1917	12760
1888	125871	1918	12322
1889	122160	1919	15345
1890	118598	1920	9166
1891	119627	1921	11249
1892	121701	1922	8937
1893	104658	1923	8848
1894	97910	1924	9042
1895	94645	1925	5268
1896	83944	1926	6754
1897	86386	1927	7760
1898	78280		

Table 29 (contd)

Ref :

SA	1868-69 to 1877-78	Table 54
	1875-76 to 1884-85	Table 74
	1884-85 to 1893-94	Table 118
	1890-91 to 1899-1900	Table 135
	1900-01 to 1909-10	Table 142
	1904-05 to 1913-14	Table 142
	1911-12 to 1920-21	Table 215
	1916-17 to 1926-27	Table 212

Note :

Upto 1885 the quantity of opium is given in 'chests',
from 1886 onwards the quantity is given in 'cwts'

Table 30: Bengal opium sold for export and number of chests paying duty in Bombay, 1889-90 to 1920-21

Year	No. of chests sold for export (Bengal)	No. of chests on which duty paid (Bombay)	Year	No. of chests sold for export (Bengal)	No. of chests on which duty paid (Bombay)
1889-90	57000	29029	1902-03	48000	19831
1890-91	57000	28591	1903-04	48005	26141
1891-92	56250	30654	1904-05	48000	18821
1892-93	48852	27845	1905-06	49200	14235
1893-94	43353	26675	1906-07	52800	13792
1894-95	39780	(24256) { 5321 }	1907-08	48900	15512
1895-96	37695	{ 25475 5952 }	1908-09	45900	34970
1896-97	39000	{ 15800 9536 }	1909-10	42300	18104
1897-98	39000	{ 7897 }	Annual average	47642	20274
1898-99	39450	26579	1911-12	26860	10607
1899-1900	41700	25492	1912-13	17890	10341
Annual average	44208	26007	1913-14	9070	-
1899-1900	41700	25492	1914-15	11598	-
1900-01	45313	25053	1915-16	12660	-
1901-02	48003	16280	1916-17	13844	-
			1917-18	12538	-
			1918-19	13768	-
			1919-20	11397*	-
			1920-21	9427	-

Ref :

For 1889-1900:

SA 1890-91 to 1899-1900 35th No Table 50 p 101

For 1899-1900:

SA 1900-01 to 1909-10 45th No Table 51 p 57

For 1911-12 to 1920-21:

SA 1911-12 to 1920-21 First Issue Table 67 p 137

Table 30 (contd)

Note:

40 seers = 1 maund = 82.2857 lbs

* Including 400 chests sold to Netherlands Indies in 1919-20, but not delivered during that year

Table 31: Exports of opium from Malwa by sea, 1883-84 to 1892-93

Year	Exports (chests)
1883-84	38245 $\frac{1}{2}$
1884-85	38686
1885-86	36901 $\frac{1}{2}$
1886-87	41222 $\frac{1}{2}$
1887-88	33711
1888-89	30431
1889-90	29181
1890-91	28156
1891-92	30786
1892-93	27268 $\frac{1}{2}$

Ref :

RRCO Vol 2 Appendix 9 p 347

Note:

Figures for 1883-84 to 1889-90 are also available in Watt Vol 6 Pt 1 p 103 (See table 28)

Table 32: Exports of opium from Central India,
1889-90 to 1910-11

Year	Exports (chests)	Remarks
1889-90	10585	Year 6-6-89 - 5-6-90
1890-91	9718	
1891-92	9114 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1892-93	8348	
1893-94	8617	
1894-95	8818	
1895-96	7221	
1896-97	6664	
1897-98	1601 5103	} From 6-6-97 - 30-9-97 1-10-97 - 30-9-98
1898-99	5590	
1899-1900	4907	
1900-01	4443	
1901-02	5778	
1902-03	4767 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1903-04	4844 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1904-05	4003	
1905-06	4439	
1906-07	4303	
1907-08	8358	
1908-09	1619 $\frac{1}{4}$	
1909-10	3468	
1910-11	2571	

Ref :

Kibe p 84

Table 33: Exports of opium from India, 1905-06 and 1923-24

Destination	Quantity	
	1905-06 (lbs)	1923-24 (lbs)
China (including Hongkong and Macao)	6720980	
Hongkong (British)		33600
Macao (Portuguese)		34300
Straits Settlements (British)	1731520	325500
United Kingdom	59780	
East coast of Africa	1820	
Mauritius (British)	5600	
Natal (British)	3220	
Ceylon (British)	25060	
Indo-China (French)	70000	379400
East Indies (Dutch)	107800	126000
Australia	9940	
Other countries		55440
(including North Borneo, Japan, Japan, Siam)	75320	140
Japan		14000
Siam		229000
North Borneo		25060
Total export	8811040	1217440

Ref :

ORG p 9

Table 34: Percentage of opium revenue of Bengal in total revenue of British India, 1792-93 to 1809-10

Year	Opium revenue of Bengal (£)	Total revenue of India (£)	Percentage of Bengal opium revenue in total revenue of British India
1792-93	292751	8225628	3.55
1793-94	304954	8276770	3.68
1794-95	354921	8026193	4.42
1795-96	189278	7866094	2.41
1796-97	179950	8016171	2.24
1797-98	238043	8059880	2.95
1798-99	210304	8652033	2.43
1799-1800	372025	9736672	3.82
1800-1801	372502	10485059	3.55
1801-02	367658	12163589	3.02
1802-03	534654	13464537	3.97
1803-04	463161	13271385	3.49
1804-05	725895	14949395	4.85
1805-06	690011	15403409	4.48
1806-07	480069	14535739	3.30
1807-08	801467	15669965	5.11
1808-09	594978	15525055	3.83
1809-10	580000	15655935	3.70

Ref :

RSCAEC - 1812 Appendix 2, 3 pp 78, 88-89

Table 35: Percentage of opium revenue in total revenue of Bengal, 1811-12 to 1830-31

Year	Opium revenue (Sc Rs)	Total revenue (Sc Rs)	Percentage
1811-12	7971358	90595194	8.80
1812-13	6291306	87790297	7.17
1813-14	8306633	94098456	8.83
1814-15	9513471	93884416	10.13
1815-16	9062587	94814221	9.55
1816-17	8117706	99020722	8.20
1817-18	7530690	97686891	7.70
1818-19	7160242	101457751	7.05
1819-20	6895041	100860345	6.84
1820-21	12368041	106993294	11.56
1821-22	9700631	107450542	9.02
1822-23	12870816	113078420	11.38
1823-24	7343549	104176430	7.05
1824-25	13062952	109341145	11.95
1825-26	8102509	104784020	7.73
1826-27	14787136	113801213	12.99
1827-28	17686387	118831887	14.88
1828-29	18133489	118246606	15.33
1829-30	15262092	111371054	13.70
1830-31	12616358	112966714	11.17

Ref :

RSCAEIC - 1830 Revenue III

Statement B in the preceding letter from the Right Honourable Holt M'Kenzie to Thomas Hyde Villiers, p 313

Table 36: Opium revenue and total revenue for there presidencies
in British India, 1828-29 to 1834-35

Year	Bengal (Sc Rs)	Madras (Sc Rs)	Bombay (Sc Rs)	Total (Sc Rs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1828-29	16645612	-	-	16645612
1829-30	15262092	-	-	15262092
1830-31	12616358	-	803525	12419883
1831-32	12256637	-	2169063	14425700
1832-33	11511841	-	1407413	12919254
1833-34	12815145	-	2081858	14897003
1834-35	10919673	-	1752803	12672476

Total revenue				% of opium revenue in total revenue
Bengal (Sc Rs)	Madras (Sc Rs)	Bombay (Sc Rs)	Total (Sc Rs)	
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
119286969	45990801	20610278	185888048	8.95
113934122	45228155	21402015	180564292	8.45
116009940	44600782	22572313	183183035	7.32
112030181	44201398	22192724	178424303	8.08
111501693	40312400	22425870	174239963	7.41
107088317	42981801	24303068	174373186	8.54
112502558	44279169	23117417	179899144	7.04

Ref :

RSCEIP p 625

Table 37: Percentage of opium revenue in total revenue of British India, 1840-1927

Year	Opium revenue (£)	Total revenue (£)	%	Year	Opium revenue (£)	Total revenue (£)	%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1840	784266	20124038	3.90	1870	7953098	50706604	15.68
1841	1430498	20851073	6.86	1871	8045459	51235489	15.70
1842	1599627	21837823	7.32	1872	9253859	49888552	18.55
1843	2087695	22616487	9.23	1873	8684691	49998254	17.37
1844	2638766	23586574	11.19	1874	8324879	49360142	16.86
1845	2848736	23666246	12.04	1875	8556629	50226688	17.04
1846	3578002	24270608	15.95	1876	8471425	58965159	14.37
1847	3678206	26084681	14.10	1877	9122460	58651907	15.55
1848	2735129	24908302	10.98	1878	9182722	61972481	14.82
1849	3913090	25396386	15.41	1879	9399401	65194020	14.42
1850	4497254	27522344	16.34	1880	10319162	68433157	15.08
1851	3795300	27625360	13.94	1881	10480051	74290112	14.11
1852	4259777	27832237	15.31	1882	9862444	75684987	13.03
1853	5088184	28609109	17.79	1883	9499594	70278337	13.52
1854	4777230	28277530	16.89	1884	9556501	71841790	13.30
1855	4710352	29133050	16.17	1885	8816469	70690681	12.47
1856	5195976	30817528	16.86	1886	8942515	74464197	12.01
1857	5002400	31691015	15.78	1887	8942976	77337134	11.56
1858	6864209	31706776	21.65	1888	8515462	78759744	10.81
1859	6146342	36060788	19.04	1889	8562319	81696678	10.48
1860	5887778	39705822	14.83	1890	8583056	85085203	10.09
1861	6676759	42903234	15.56	1891	7879182	85741649	9.19
1862	6359270	43829472	14.51	1892	8012380	89143283	8.99
1863	8055476	45143752	17.85	1893	7993180	90172438	8.86
1864	6831999	44613032	15.31	1894	6627571	90565214	7.31
1865	7361405	47652897	15.45	1895	4882505	63261488	7.72
1866	8518264	48935220	17.41	1896	4749281	65422598	7.26
1867	6803413	42012566	16.19	1897	4272825	62621929	6.83
1868	8923568	48429644	18.42	1898	3453181	64257206	5.37
1869	8453365	49085255	17.22	1899	3816887	67567187	5.65

Table 37 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1900	4401992	63637164	6.41		(Rs)	(Rs)	
1901	5102242	64727043	6.39	1915	28383274	1217364987	2.33
1902	4852022	64632141	7.51	1916	28702712	1266303049	2.26
1903	4498438	65295752	6.89	1917	47400073	1470756443	3.22
1904	5736045	70967579	8.08	1918	46183538	1689935204	2.73
1905	6021499	71107293	8.47	1919	49336670	1848866160	2.66
1906	5468780	70341869	7.72	1920	45562212	1974859319	2.31
1907	5660528	73144554	7.74	1921	35341234	2150184005	1.64
1908	5244986	71003275	7.39	1922	30724798	1856454053	1.66
1909	5884788	69761535	8.43	1923	37892068	1971514394	1.92
1910	5534683	74593495	7.42	1924	42481654	2116373916	2.00
1911	7521962	80682473	9.32	1925	37976177	2188136192	1.73
1912	5961278	82835750	7.20	1926	41499581	2206850662	1.88
1913	5124592	86862598	5.90	1927	43313748	2180862761	1.98
1914	1624878	85207175	1.90				

Ref :

SA 1840 to 1865	Table Nos 6, 7
1858 to 1867	Table Nos 6, 7
1860 to 1868	Table Nos 8, 9
1868-69 to 1877-78	Table Nos 21, 22
1875-76 to 1884-85	Table No 26
1884-85 to 1893-94	Table No 37
1890-91 to 1899-1900	Table No 42
1900-01 to 1909-10	Table No 45
1904-05 to 1913-14	Table No 45
1911-12 to 1920-21	Table No 61
1916-17 to 1926-27	Table Nos 54, 62

Notes :

- a) Opium revenue consists of 'Bengal sales', 'Bombay pass duty on Malwa opium', 'Cost price of excise opium gains on sale proceeds of excise opium', and 'Miscellaneous revenue Bengal and Bombay (See note given in table 38 for explanations of the above terms)
- b) Exchange rate between pound and rupee:
 - 1876 to 1894 1 £ = 10 Rs.
 - 1895 to 1914 1 £ = 15 Rs.
 - 1915 to 1927 figures are in Rupees

Table 38: Opium revenue of British India (as shown in 'Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India, 1880-81 to 1892-93

Year	Credited under 'II - Opium'				Total revenue credited under II opium (Rx)
	Bengal sales (Rx)	Bombay pass duty on Malwa opium (Rx)	Cost price of excise opium (Rx)	Miscellaneous revenue Bengal and Bombay (Rx)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1880-81	7683558	2526236	225046	45211	10480051
1881-82	7465313	2184645	192037	20449	9862444
1882-83	6890456	2395559	198942	14637	9499594
1883-84	6803708	2508490	194156	50147	9556501
1884-85	6052029	2537870	192257	34313	8816469
1885-86	6296014	2449005	188060	9436	8942515
1886-87	6146979	2583457	198999	13542	8942977
1887-88	6037967	2267492	201260	8742	8515461
1888-89	6303998	1964497	204964	8859	8562318
1889-90	6473569	1886885	215123	7478	8583055
1890-91	5912886	1749330	210774	6192	7879182
1891-92	5949660	1839270	213807	9643	8012380
1892-93	6093265	1670730	221301	7884	7993180

Table 38 (contd)

Credited under 'V Opium Excise'				
Opium license fees	Gain on sales of proceeds of excise opium	Punjab acreage duty	Total revenue credited under V-excise	Total opium revenue
(Rx)	(Rx)	(Rx)	(Rx)	(Rx)
(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
213648	553191	3076	769915	11249966
227539	608201	3674	839414	10701858
244770	603090	3917	851777	10351371
250886	643798	4125	898800	10455310
242935	638214	3482	884631	9701100
248487	631474	2919	882880	9825395
244110	660123	2982	907215	9850192
255100	668769	3185	927054	9442515
270192	688913	4066	963171	9525489
265980	710243	3694	979917	9562972
276002	728147	3689	1007038	8887020
270633	738037	4245	1012915	9025295
259175	747384	4234	1010793	9003973

Table 38 (contd)

Ref :

RRCO Vol 2 Appendix 8 pp 342-44

Source :

The figures throughout the statement are taken from Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India except those in Column 'Opium license fees' for the year 1880-81 to 1890-91 which are taken from the provincial excise reports; .license fees on account of opium not having been shown separately in the Finance and Revenue Accounts prior to 1891-92; J.F.Finlay - Secretary to the Government of India, Dept. of Finance and Commerce, 24-11-1893

Notes :

- 1) Bengal sales: Amounts realised by the sale in Calcutta for export of 'provision opium' manufactured in the Bihar and Benares Opium Agencies.
- 2) Bombay pass duty on Malwa opium: Government duty on opium produced chiefly in Central India and parts of Rajputana weighed at the scales under the Opium Agents for export to China via Bombay
- 3) Cost price of excise opium. Gain on sale proceeds of excise opium: Excise opium means opium manufactured in Bihar and Benares opium Agencies for consumption in India, and not for export. Excise opium is issued by Govt. of licensed vendors at rates varying in each province mainly according to the facilities for smuggling. The rates have been raised from time to time and now vary from Rs 13 a seer in the Punjab to Rs 37 in Assam. The figures in the Column 'Costs price of excise opium' represent the portion Rs 7-4-0 a seer of the total selling price which is estimated to be the cost to the govt. of India of excise opium manufactured in the Patna and Ghazipur factories. This is credited to II-Opium. The balance of the selling price is shown in the Column 'Gain on sale proceeds of the excise opium' and credited in each province to V-Excise. The figures in the two columns taken together show the total amount realised by the sale of opium for local consumption
- 4) Miscellaneous revenue, Bengal and Bombay: Receipts on account of opium supplied by the Bihar and Benares Agencies to the medical dept, warehouse rent in Bombay fines, confiscation and other petty items
- 5) Opium licence fees: The fees paid for licences for the vend of opium and its preparations, wholesale or retail.

Table 38 (contd)

- 6) Punjab acreage duty: In some districts of Punjab poppy cultivation is permitted on payment of an acreage duty varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 an acre

Table 39: Duty on opium in the Bombay Presidency, 1818-30 to 1910-13

Period	Duty rate (Rs)
1818-30	12 per Surat seer
1830-35	175 per chest
1835-43	125 "
1843-45	200 "
1845-47	300 "
1847-59	400 "
1859-60	500 "
1860-61	600 "
1861 - 1st Oct 1862	700 "
1-10-1862 - 16-7-1877	600 "
16-7-1877 - 16-9-1879	650 "
16-9-1879 - 28-6-1882	700 "
28-6-1882 - 5-7-1890	650 "
5-7-1890 - 1908	600 "
1909	800 "
1910-13	1200 "

Ref :

Kibe p 82

Note :

Figures for 1830 to 1890 are available in SA table 9 pp 60-61 (See table 40 infra)

Table 40: Rate of duty per chest on Malwa opium in Bombay Presidency, 1830-31 to 1892-93

Year	Rate of duty per chest		Year	Rate of duty per chest	
	Indore & Ahmedabad	Ajmere		Indore & Ahmedabad	Ajmere
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
1830-31	175	-	1858-59	400	-
1831-32	175	-	1859-60	(400) (500)	-
1832-33	175	-	1860-61	(500) (600)	-
1833-34	175	-	1861-62	(600) (700)	-
1834-35	175	-	1862-63	(700) (600)	-
1835-36	125	-	1863-64	600	-
1836-37	125	-	1864-65	600	-
1837-38	125	-	1865-66	600	-
1838-39	125	-	1866-67	600	-
1839-40	125	-	1867-68	600	-
1840-41	125	-	1868-69	600	-
1841-42	125	-	1869-70	600	-
1842-43	200	-	1870-71	600	-
1843-44	200	-	1871-72	600	-
1844-45	200	-	1872-73	600	-
1845-46	300	-	1873-74	600	-
1846-47	300	-	1874-75	600	-
1847-48	(300) (400)	-	1875-76	600	-
1848-49	400	-	1876-77	600	-
1849-50	400	-	1877-78	(600) (650)	675
1850-51	400	-	1878-79	650	675
1851-52	400	-	1879-80	(650) (700)	(675) (725)
1852-53	400	-	1880-81	700	725
1853-54	400	-	1881-82	700	725
1854-55	400	-			
1855-56	400	-			
1856-57	400	-			
1857-58	400	-			

Table 40 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
1882-83	{700} {650}	{725} {675}	1889-90	650	675
1883-84	650	675	1890-91	{650} {600}	{675} {625}
1884-85	650	675	1891-92	600	625
1885-86	650	675	1892-93	600	625
1886-87	650	675			
1887-88	650	675			
1888-89	650	675			

Ref :

SA 1892-93 Table 9 pp 60-61

Table 41: Comparative abstract of the proposals for supplying the East India Company with opium by contract in Bengal, 1775

At the rates proposed in Sicca Rupees					
Contracts with	Bihar opium	Ghase-pore opium	Niapar opium	Pournea opium	Rung-pore opium
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)

Mr. Dweil, P. chest containing weight to the seer Sa. Rs. delivered at Patna	230	230	230	-	-
Mr. Mackenzie, Per chest, If delivered at Calcutta, an advance of 10 Rs. per chest to be allowed on the Patna price	197	220	230	-	-
Mr. Witton, If for one year p. chest	270	270	270	-	-
If for 3 years per chest deliverable at the least at the Respective Prol. Council	260	260	260	-	240
Mr. Griffith P Mand deliverable at Patna with an allowance of 2 1/2 per chest at the medium of the Calcutta sales on the amount procured	95	95	95	-	-
Mr. Phipps, per chest @ 350 Rs. the produce of Fucker Coondy Cooch Beyhar and Baharband					
Ramkissen Mullick, per chest of 2 chest of 2 mds weight, deliverable at Patna	248	268	268	-	-

Table 41 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5°)	(6)
Govindram Tagoor, per chest of 2 mds Patna weight, deliverable at Patna	229	249	249	-	-
Ramlonoo Metre, per chest of 2 mds, deliverable at Rungpore or Dinajpore	-	-	-	A Rs. 350	-
Mr. Flore, per chest if deliverable at Patna	-	-	-	Sa. Rs 250	-
Mohun Loll, per chest if deliverable at Patna	200	225	245	-	-
If deliverable at Calcutta	240	235	245	-	-
Sait Godab Chund and Sait Abeer per chest of 76 Sa. weight no place of delivery mentioned	260	260	260	-	-
Nujum-ul-deed, per chest of the first sort to contain 2 mds of 82 sicca weight and to be put in casks	-	-	-	-	320
Bugwant Roy, per chest	-	-	-	235	-
Ramtonoo Dutt, per chest of 76 sicca weight	-	-	-	260	-

Ref :
Chandra pp 132-33

Note : The proposals received by
the Secretary were placed
before the Supreme Board
on 21-7-1775

Table 42: Opium sold from Bihar, Benares and Malwa and average price of Bengal opium, 1787-88 to 1830-31, 1835-36 and 1840-41

Year	No. of chests sold				Average price realised for each chest of Bengal opium sold (Rs)
	Bihar	Benares	Malwa	Total	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1787-88	3113	580	-	3693	470
1788-89	1907	423	-	2330	569
1789-90	1963	504	-	2467	588
1790-91	2267	572	-	2839	553
1791-92	2474	750	-	3220	525
1792-93	2152	832	-	2982	632
1793-94	2979	881	-	3860	569
1794-95	3502	1148	-	4650	559
1795-96	4749	1287	-	6026	245
1796-97	5331	1233	-	6564	264
1797-98	3450	722	-	4172	426
1798-99	3325	729	-	4054	750
1799-1800	3665	905	-	4570	718
1800-01	3148	799	-	3947	831
1801-02	2570	722	-	3292	1383
1802-03	2224	616	-	2840	1378
1803-04	2380	779	-	3159	1950
1804-05	3004	832	-	3836	1608
1805-06	3278	848	-	4126	1039
1806-07	3649	889	-	4538	1583
1807-08	3420	788	-	4208	1276
1808-09	3793	767	-	4560	1460
1809-10	3970	998	-	4968	1557
1810-11	3885	1006	-	4891	1549
1811-12	3959	1007	-	4966	1328
1812-13	3844	925	-	4769	1955

Table 42 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1813-14	3023	649	-	3672	2554
1814-15	3381	849	-	4230	2257
1815-16	3571	747	-	4318	2091
1816-17	2885	800	-	3685	2289
1817-18	8863	689	-	3552	1876
1818-19	3095	611	-	3706	2221
1819-20	3161	783	-	3999	2479
1820-21	2537	508	1600	4605	4283
1821-22	3327	573	1600	5520	3489
1822-23	2661	699	4000	7360	2062
1823-24	4148	1242	4000	9390	1383
1824-25	2836	974	4200	7810	1990
1825-26	4982	1588	4000	10570	1385
1826-27	4698	1652	3065	9415	1846
1827-28	5287	2174	-	4761	1328
1828-29	6149	2429	-	8578	1357
1829-30	5101	2214	-	7315	1763
1830-31	5384	2540	-	7924	1482
.
.
.
1835-36	11867	6090	-	17257	1498
.
.
.
1840-41	13014	5248	-	18362	811

Ref :

RRCO Vol 7 Pt 2 Appendix B pp 61-62

Sources :

- a) For 1787-88 to 1826-27 : Para 57 of a letter from the Court of Directors to the Governor-General in Council dt 30th Jan 1822 in App IV to the third report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the affairs of the East India Company dt 11th Oct 1831 and from App 143 to the Report of the Select Committee dt 16th Aug

Table 42 (contd)

- 1852; For prices of Bengal opium, 1787-88 to 1796-97 : Letter to the Court of Directors dt 10th Jan 1822; For prices of Bengal opium, 1797-98 to 1830-31 and for quantity of Bengal opium sold, 1827-28 - 1830-31 Chap V, of Pt I of the Report of the Commission appointed by the Government of India to inquire into the working of the opium department in 1883
- b) Data relating to prices of Malwa opium from 1820-21 to 1826-27 are not available
 - c) For quantity and prices of Bengal opium sold in 1835-36 and in 1840-41 refer to a return submitted by the India Office to the House of Commons on 2nd Mar 1865

Table 45: Opium sold at the public sales of the East India Co.,
prime cost at the time of the sale, price
paid to the cultivator in India, 1797-98 to
1826-27

Quantity sold by auction						
(1)	Bihar		Benares		Prime cost at	
	Chests	Factory maunds	Chests	Factory maunds	times of sale	per factory mds
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
1797-98	3450	7265	722	1450	82	4 -
1798-99	3325	6894	729	1471	82	4 6
1799-1800	3665	7668	905	1847	81	1 5
1800-01	3148	6598	799	1652	82	6 4
1801-02	2570	5337	722	1509	83	15 2
1802-03	2224	4610	616	1275	83	5 7
1803-04	2380	4790	779	1615	82	4 6
1804-05	3004	6204	832	1703	79	7 6
1805-06	3278	6828	848	1761	79	1 11
1806-07	3649 $\frac{1}{2}$	7580	889	1846	79	14 3
1807-08	3420	6909	788	1623	82	14 15
1808-09	3793	7903	767	1580	82	8 10
1809-10	3970	8319	998	2053	80	9 9
1810-11	3885	8088	1006	2049	82	3 7
1811-12	3959	8198	1007	2052	84	1 3
1812-13	3844	7934	925	1928	84	2 10
1813-14	3023	6269	649	1360	89	2 6
1814-15	3381	7056	849	1756	86	1 1
1815-16	3571	7317	747	1531	85	9 2
1816-17	2885	5837	800	1639	92	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

Table 43 (contd)

Price per seer to cultivator or manufacturer	Malwa quantity sold by auction (chests)	Year
(7)	(8)	

* 1-13-1

1799-1800

* 1-14-5

1803-04

* 1-14-9

1807-08

Table 43 (contd)

Quantity sold by auction							
	Bihar		Benares		Prime cost at		
	Chests	Factory maunds	Chests	Factory maunds	times of sale per factory mds		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
1817-18	2863	5896	689	1404	91	4	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
1818-19	3095	6238	611	1257	95	10	$\frac{1}{2}$
1819-20	3161	6648	783	1601	89	14	6
1820-21	2537	4989	508	1054	102	13	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1821-22	3327	5530	573	1159	112	3	2
1822-23	2661	4473	699	1326	115	12	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1823-24	4148	7954	1242	2402	129	1	4
1824-25	2836	6277	974	1974	135	-	8
1825-26	4982	9436	1588	2981	126	8	6
1826-27	4698	9981	1652	2986	138	3	6

Table 43 (contd)

Price per seer to cultivator or manufacturer	Malwa quantity sold by auction (chests)	Year
(7)	(8)	
		.
		.
* 1-14-9	1600	1820-21
	1600	1821-22
	4000	1822-23
	4000	1823-24
	4200	1824-25
	4000	1825-26
	3065	1826-27

Ref :

RSCAEIC Revenue III p 703 J. Mill (Examiner of India
Correspondence) East India House 30 May 1832

Note :

- * Maximum average price was Rs 2-2 reported to the Bengal government in 1822. In 1823 government fixed the maximum of recompense to the cultivator at 3 rupees per seer

Table 44: Sale price of opium in Bengal, 1798-99 to 1816-17

Year	Average selling price per chest		
	(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)
1798-99	414	15	2
1799-1800	775	3	
1800-01	687	12	
1801-02	790	10	6
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
1813-14	1860	3	10
1814-15	2427	10	3
1815-16	2149	14	
1816-17	1795	8	9

Ref :

Chowdhury 1964 p 9

Table 45: Price of opium per chest in India, 1801-22

Year	Price per chest
1801	738
.	.
.	.
1803	1124
1804	1437
.	.
.	.
1810	1589
1811	1639
.	.
.	.
1814	1813
1815	2361
1816	2135
1817	1925
1818	2176
1819	1783
1820	2056
1821	2485
1822	4248

Ref :

AJMR p 231 Sept-Dec 1839

Source :

St George Tucker - Financial State of the Co in 1824

Note :

- 1) The weight of the chest is variously estimated at two factory maunds or 150 lbs and a peculiar 133 lbs. The average be 140 lbs
- 2) The advance in the prices given for the drug making (due allowance for the improvement of quality) is criterion of the eagerness of the traffic. Tucker states it as follows : in 1797 before the establishment of the agency system the price per chest was Rs 414

Table 46: Highest, lowest and average prices of Bengal and Malwa opium, 1816-17 to 1830-31

Patna & Benares opium - price per chest					
Years	Chests produced	Highest \$	Lowest \$	Average \$	Value \$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1816-17	2610	1320	1080	1200	3132000
1817-18	2530	1330	1200	1265	3200450
1818-19	3050	1200	800	1000	3050000
1819-20	2970	1320	1150	1235	3667950
1820-21	3050	2500	1300	1900	5795000
1821-22	2910	2500	1650	2075	6038250
1822-23	1822	2550	2080	1552	2828930
1823-24	2910	2500	1100	1600	4656000
1824-25	2655	1450	900	1175	3119625
1825-26	3442	1150	800	913	3141755
1826-27	3661	1250	800	1002	3668565
1827-28	5134	1220	815	998	5125155
1828-29	5965	1100	880	940	5604235
1829-30	7143	1000	805	860	6149577
1830-31	6660	1050	790	870	5790204

Table 46 (contd)

Chest produced	Malwa opium				Total	
	Highest	Low st	Average	Value on the basis of average prices	Chests produced	Value
		\$	\$			\$
(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
600	950	800	875	525000	3210	3657000
1150	800	600	612	703800	3680	3904250
1530	850	600	725	1109250	4580	4159250
1630	1400	950	1175	1915250	4600	5583200
1720	1800	1230	1515	2605800	4770	8400800
1718	1600	1050	1325	2276350	4628	8314600
4000	1500	1080	1290	5160000	5822	7988930
4172	1050	800	925	3859100	7082	8515100
6000	950	550	750	4500000	8655	7619625
6179	850	560	723	4464450	9621	7608205
6308	1060	860	942	5941520	9169	9610085
4401	1420	950	1204	5299920	9535	10425075
7771	1250	750	968	6928880	13132	12533115
6857	1030	740	862	5907580	14000	12057157
12100	760	520	588	7114059	18760	12904263

Ref :

RSCAEC - 1830

Revenue III (Evidence by Capt. John Shephard) p 250

Table 47: Sale and prices of opium in Calcutta, 1837-39

Years	No. of chests sold	Average price per chest (Rs)
1837	17244 $\frac{1}{2}$	1321
1838	19133	747
1839	18563	536

Ref :

Chowdhury 1964 p 19

Source :

Board of Customs, Salt, Opium op 27th Aug No 1 1839

Table 48: Average price per chest of government opium in Central India, 1837-38 to 1911

Year	Auction price per chest	Year	Auction price per chest
1837-38	539	1860-61	1921
.	.	1861-62 - 1878-79 average	1250
:	:	1879-80 - 1881-82 average	1283
.	.	1882-83 - 1886-87 average	1225
1852-53	1104	1887-88 - 1891-92 average	1097
1853-54	887	1892-93	1247
1854-55	711	.	.
1855-56	834	:	:
1856-57	891	.	.
1857-58	1285	1906 to 1909 not below	1400
1858-59	1487	1909-10	1500 to 3000
1859-60	1675	1911 (upto September)	3000 to 6300

Ref :

Kibe p 83

Note :

Auction price relates to government opium

Table 49: Prices of opium paid to cultivators in Patna district
1839-59

Year	Opium price per seer		
	(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)
1839-40	()
1840-41	{		}
1841-42	{		}
1842-43	{		}
1843-44	{		}
1844-45	{		}
1845-46	{ 3	10	- }
1846-47	{		}
1847-48	{		}
1848-49	{		}
1849-50	{		}
1850-51	()
1851-52	()
1852-53	{		}
1853-54	{ 3	8	- }
1854-55	{		}
1855-56	()
1856-57	{		}
1857-58	{ 3	4	- }
1858-59	{		}

Ref :

RIC Pt 2 (Letter R. King, Statement C), p 381
signed by R. King, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent 12 Jun 1860

Table 50: Prices of opium paid to cultivators in Bengal, 1848-49 to 1892-93

Year	Prices per seer			Year	Prices per seer		
	(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)		(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)
1848-49	3	10	0	1872-73	5	0	0
1849-50	3	10	0	1873-74	5	0	0
1850-51	3	10	0	1874-75	5	0	0
1851-52	3	8	0	1875-76	5	0	0
1852-53	3	8	0	1876-77	5	0	0
1853-54	3		0	1877-78	4	8	0
1854-55	3	4	0	1878-79	4	8	0
1855-56	3	4	0	1879-80	4	8	0
1856-57	3	4	0		5	Bihar	0
1857-58	3	4	0	1880-81		Benares	0
1858-59	3	8	0		4	8	0
.	.	.	.	1881-82	5	0	0
.	.	.	.	1882-83	5	0	0
.	.	.	.	1883-84	5	0	0
1860-61	4	0	0	1884-85	5	0	0
1861-62	5	0	0	1885-86	5	0	0
1862-63	5	0	0	1886-87	5	0	0
1863-64	5	0	0	1887-88	5	0	0
1864-65	5	0	0	1888-89	5	0	0
1865-66	4	8	0	1889-90	5	0	0
1866-67	4	8	0	1890-91	5	0	0
1867-68	4	8	0	1891-92	5	0	0
1868-69	4	8	0	1892-93	5	0	0
1869-70	4	8	0				
1870-71	4	8	0				
1871-72	5	0	0				

Ref :

SA 1892-93 Table 7 pp 56-58

Table 51: Average export price of opium in Bengal, 1876 to 1910

Year	Average export price per chest			Year	Average export price per chest		
	(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)		(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)
1876	1269	2	11	1894	1109	1	11
1877	1270	1	11	1895	1337	11	3
1878	1266	8	4	1896	1390	3	1
1879	1224	15	8	1897	1243	10	10
1880	1169	14	8	1898	1023	5	6
1881	1362	5	4	1899	1055	7	6
1882	1323	10	2	1900	1220	15	5
1883	1221	11	4	1901	1360	10	10
1884	1250	10	10	1902	1296	15	5
1885	1295	15	10	1903	1144	8	11
1886	1234	10	6	1904	1461	15	9
1887	1122	11	9	1905	1587	5	8
1888	1059	4	8	1906	1434	0	3
1889	1120	0	0	1907	1390	12	3
1890	1135	11	5	1908	1350	4	10
1891	1037	5	7	1909	1383	12	10
1892	1057	11	5	1910	1612	1	8
1893	1247	4	8				

Ref :

- SA 1875-76 to 1884-85 Table 32
 1884-85 to 1893-94 Table 43; (also in RRCO Vol 2 App9 p 346)
 1890-91 to 1899-1900 Table 49
 1900-01 to 1909-10 Table 51

Table 52: Average export price of opium in India, 1917-18 to 1926-27

Year	Average export price per chest		
	(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)
1917-18	2555	3	3
1918-19	2673	15	1
1919-20	3140*	11	3
1920-21	3107	13	3
1921-22	3047	6	1
1922-23	3743	1	6
1923-24	3914	5	6
1924-25	3844	15	4
1925-26	4134	2	4
1926-27	4000	0	0

Ref :

SA 6th Issue p 182 (1917-18 to 1926-27)

* Including 400 chests sold to Netherlands in 1919-20, but not delivered during that year

Table 55: Quantity of 'Excise Opium' manufactured in Bengal and distributed provincewise, 1873-74 to 1892-93

Year	Quantity of excise opium manufactured			Quantity of Excise		
	Bihar Agency (Mds)	Benares Agency (Mds)	Total (Mds)	Bengal (Mds)	NWP & Oudh (Mds)	CP (Mds)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1873-74	5011	763	5779	1431	892	-
1874-75	4016	1812	5828	1446	1407 $\frac{1}{2}$	-
1875-76	5453	1108	6561	1461	1222	-
1876-77	4298	1523	5821	1170	997	-
1877-78	3795	1083	4878	1402 $\frac{1}{2}$	1367	201
1878-79	3876	2185	6061	1725	962 $\frac{1}{2}$	649
1879-80	4020	2997	7017	1654 $\frac{1}{2}$	1696 $\frac{1}{2}$	601
1880-81	5284	719	6003	1659	793	350
1881-82	3956	2055	6011	1549	1258	760
1882-83	3240	2632	5872	1468	1561	798
1883-84	1837	5356	7193	1689	1566	798
1884-85	3991	5856	9847	1698	1423 $\frac{1}{2}$	762
1885-86	2653	4102	6755	1767	1520 $\frac{1}{2}$	735
1886-87	931	5143	6074	1674 $\frac{1}{2}$	1411	487
1887-88	3289	2876	6165	1660 $\frac{1}{2}$	1565	694
1888-89	1698	2674	4372	1588 $\frac{1}{2}$	1542	689
1889-90	1913	5920	7833	1788	1709 $\frac{1}{2}$	725
1890-91	5030	5305	10335	1833 $\frac{1}{2}$	1981 $\frac{1}{2}$	962
1891-92	5097	2367	7464	1548	1604 $\frac{1}{2}$	841 $\frac{1}{2}$
1892-93	2996	4498	7494	1702 $\frac{1}{4}$	1639 $\frac{1}{2}$	804

Table 53 (contd)

Opium supplied to

Assam (Mds)	Burma (Mds)	Punjab (Mds)	Year
1770	682 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1873-74
1914	966	-	1874-75
1929	628 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1875-76
2214	840	-	1876-77
1464	1168 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1877-78
1401	1357 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1878-79
1360 $\frac{1}{2}$	1104	10	1879-80
1479	1290	410	1880-81
1711	927	-	1881-82
1743	1294	-	1882-83
1389	1158	-	1883-84
2232	1105 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1884-85
1329	837	-	1885-86
1357 $\frac{1}{2}$	1263	200	1886-87
1449	1227	200	1888-88
1507 $\frac{1}{2}$	1501 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1888-89
882	1437	80	1889-90
1171 $\frac{1}{2}$	1564 $\frac{1}{2}$	110	1890-91
1365	1113	147	1891-92
1395	2643 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	1892-93

Ref :

RRCO Vol 2 Appendix V Table F-1 p 327

Note : Opium prepared for local consumption in India is called 'Excise Opium'

Table 54: Opium revenue from license fees in Bengal Province, 1873-74 to 1892-93

Year	Opium (Rs)	Poppy seeds (Rs)	Druggists permits (Rs)	Medak (Rs)	Chandu (Rs)	Total (Rs)
1873-74	3929	-	-	65885	14788	84602
1874-75	38924	-	-	62356	16561	117841
1875-76	37085	-	-	62410	19361	118856
1876-77	60024	-	-	63175	17347	140546
1877-78	66024	-	-	68178	19154	153356
1878-79	148092*	-	-	74166	20553	242811
1879-80	191108	78	-	73986	19324	284496
1880-81	248868	29	-	81771	22429	353097
1881-82	300210	75	-	85863	26080	412228
1882-83	291788	43	-	85025	27387	404243
1883-84	313015	50	-	90048	26216	429329
1884-85	323618	53	-	91027	28549	443247
1885-86	322822	39	-	86702	30889	440452
1886-87	335872	39	-	83649	29746	449306
1887-88	374058	44	2655	85305	37415	499477
1888-89	405000	83	4596	85753	36254	531686
1889-90	381766	59	1543	82825	35216	501409
1890-91	393916	67	1236	81467	36267	512983
1891-92	442915	67	1185	86343	85332	565842
1892-93	474239	71	1258	79659	31032	586249

Ref :

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* Increase due to the introduction of the auction system in the place of fixed rates

Table 55: Number of licences, consumption and revenue derived from opium in the province of Bengal, 1873-74 to 1892-93

Year	Population	Maximum number of licences in force					Total
		Opium	Poppy seeds	Druggs and permits	Msdak	Chandu	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1873-74	60368117	5524	-	-	513	94	6131
1874-75	60398117	3836*	-	-	496	98	4430
1875-76	60398117	3270	-	-	427	76	3773
1876-77	60398117	3099	-	-	412	69	3580
1877-78	60415224	3086	-	-	432	69	3587
1878-79	60432487	2868	-	-	409	68	3345
1879-80	60486398	2772	24	-	425	74	3295
1880-81	60486398	2794	6	-	428	80	3308
1881-82	66589859	2375	6	-	430	82	2893
1882-83	66589859	2322	5	-	433	89	2849
1883-84	66589859	2362	6	-	445	90	2843
1884-85	66589859	2218	7	-	426	92	2743
1885-86	66589859	2127	5	-	398	93	2623
1886-87	66591453	2032	8	-	394	94	2528
1887-88	66703481	1927	9	384	367	87	2774
1888-89	66703481	1911	10	453	366	88	2828
1889-90	66703481	1834	41	1522	346	89	3832
1890-91	66703481	1700	41	1230	309	81	3861
1891-92	71069643	1698	44	1168	302	72	3284
1892-93	71271080	1714	47	1264	263	71	3359

Table 55 (contd)

Quantity of opium sold			Revenue		
(Mds)	(Srs)	(Chs)	License fees (Rs)	Duty (Rs)	Total (Rs)
(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
1750	37	11	84602	1667237	1751839
1752	28	7	117841	1665894	1783735
1752	17	0	118856	1686686	1805542
1736	19	4	140546	1679141	1819687
1767	31	8	153356	1761926	1915282
1755	28	6	242811	1844004	2086815
1796	38	0	284486	1883514	2186010
1763	24	0	353097	1906527	2259624
1723	15	7	412228	1947106	2359334
1802	2	0	404243	2026692	2430935
1918	18	0	429339	2148767	2578096
1876	0	12	443247	2104306	2547553
1841	28	8	440452	2069204	2509656
1887	37	0	449306	2117340	2566646
1939	20	12	499477	2170696	2670176
1925	16	12	531686	2156826	2688512
1905	22	0	501409	2128733	2630142
1942	26	0	512953	2163462	2676415
2005	31	14	565842	2256339	2822181
1934	18	10	586249	2170553	2756802

Ref :

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Note :

* Licences were issued free till 1873-74. The falling off in the number of licences in the following year was due to the introduction of a system of monthly licence fees

Table 56: Sale of 'Excise opium' in Bengal, 1876 to 1926-27

Year	No. of chests sold	Excise rate per seer at which issued			No. of chests remaining for excise in store
		(Rs)	(As)	(Ps)	
(1)	(2)	(3)			(4)
1876	3800	7	4	0	1700
1877	3772	7	4	0	1915
1878	4092	7	4	0	1738
1879	4383	7	4	0	1919
1880	4408	7	4	0	2132
1881	4148	7	4	0	1750
1882	4384	7	4	0	2126
1883	4910	7	4	0	1176
1884	4370	7	4	0	1120
1885	5522	7	4	0	2599
1886	4441	7	4	0	3293
1887	4497	7	4	0	2715
1888	4559	7	4	0	2176
1889	4052	7	4	0	1370
1890	4949	7	4	0	831
1891	5255	7	4	0	2635
1892	5478	-	-	-	1515
1893	4286	-	-	-	2228
1894	4348	7	4	0	1665
1895	4638	7	4	0	1816
1896	4311	8	8	0	2262
1897	4229	8	8	0	2949
1898	4500	8	8	0	1732
1899	3874	8	8	0	1892
1900	4389	8	8	0	982
1901	4494	8	8	0	1268
1902	4591	8	8	0	1495
1903	5318	8	8	0	2076
1904	5187	8	8	0	2157

Table 56 (contd)

(1)	(2)	(3)			(4)
1905	5300	8	8	0	1598
1906	5731	8	8	0	1730
1907	6391	8	8	0	1133
1908	7202	8	8	0	1765
1909	7707	8	8	0	4289
1910	7236	8	8	0	3284
1911-12	8291	8	8	0	3419
1912-13	9595	8	8	0	2697
1913-14	9867	8	8	0	2239
1914-15	9704	8	8	8	1656
1915-16	8907	8	8	8	2214
1916-17	8799	11	0	0	1060
1917-18	9118	11	0	0	1573
1918-19	8630	13	0	0	1360
1919-20	8653	13	0	0	887
1920-21	6761	13	0	0	1029
1921-22	6182	20	0	0	1713
1922-23	5827	23	0	0	722
1923-24	5928	30	0	0	1351
1924-25	5029	30	0	0	1463
1925-26	1582	28	0	0	9
1926-27	680	-	-	-	-

Ref :

SA 1868-69 to 1877-78
 1875-76 to 1884-85
 1884-85 to 1893-94
 1890-91 to 1899-1900
 1900-01 to 1909-10
 1911-12 to 1920-21
 1917-18 to 1928-29

Table 57: Revenue from consumption of opium in India,
1878-79 to 1889-90

Province/Year	1878-79 (Rx)	1879-80 (Rx)	1880-81 (Rx)	1881-82 (Rx)	1882-83 (Rx)
India, General	918	522	319	381	650
Oudh	8515	12090	13512	13486	14448
Central Provinces	64239	75946	83447	89511	92938
Burma	151296	162644	180593	177035	179982
Assam	154813	156760	163740	155321	164703
Bengal	148294	155358	164398	174760	179592
N.W.Provinces	67244	72155	84809	80370	83384
Panjab	32863	32511	133171	47818	43344
Madras	Not recorded		63137	47018	51406
Bombay	31861	34691	23837	14760	9070
Total Rx	660043	702677	810963	800490	819517
No. of Abkari chests manu- factured for consumption in India	5605	4221	4378	3959	591

Table 57 (contd)

1883-84 (Rx)	1884-85 (Rx)	1885-86 (Rx)	1886-87 (Rx)	1887-88 (Rx)	1888-89 (Rx)	1889-90 (Rx)
1610	2902	2434	2799	2720	3174	5012
14618	14203	15221	15808	15189	18596	19899
94922	94624	95441	93709	88129	90331	93824
181554	176769	164383	197340	209105	225009	229463
165059	169232	165700	166594	152746	163560	173631
190548	183393	185798	90575	198491	200813	195948
81137	80131	80613	80838	79749	87340	89142
42589	41668	36333	36722	37119	38183	38521
63273	66324	75014	67632	65281	68387	64022
19624	10208	21236	11056	16847	23587	19416
845634	844654	844177	863073	877377	919980	928923
2146	4321	2291	2831	3367	3485	6320

Ref :

Watt Vol 6 Pt 1 p 99

Note :

Ex is equivalent to one pound sterling

Table 60: Consumption of Malwa opium in British India and Native States, 1883-84 to 1892-93

Year	Malwa opium diverted for local consumption in British India and Native States (Chests)
1883-84	2865 $\frac{3}{4}$
1884-85	2875 $\frac{7}{10}$
1885-86	2856 $\frac{3}{4}$
1886-87	2837
1887-88	2969 $\frac{1}{2}$
1888-89	3077 $\frac{1}{4}$
1889-90	3293
1890-91	3291 $\frac{1}{2}$
1891-92	3515 $\frac{1}{4}$
1892-93	3348

Ref :

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Table 59: Consumption of opium per ten thousand of population in British India - provincewise, 1922-23

(League of Nations index figures - 6 seers per 10,000 people)

Name of Province	Population in 1921	Consumption per ten thousand (Srs)
Punjab (Total for 1922-23)	20685024	11.99
United Provinces (")	45373787	6.64
Bengal (")	46522293	8.14
Bombay Presidency Sind and Aden	19348319	22.17
Madras	42313067	8.50
Assam	7606230	52.06
Central Provinces & Berar	13912760	16.14
Bihar & Orissa	34490084	8.30
North West Frontier	3736922	10.18
Baluchistan	748929	5.99
Delhi	488188	-
Ajmer-Merwara	495271	52.74
Coorg	163838	2.29
Burma	11457325	28.73

Ref :

ORC Pp 35-42

Note :

One seer equals to two lbs