

CHAPTER XVI

PLACES OF INTEREST

ADHAURA.—A village situated at a height of 2,000 feet on the plateau of Kaimur hills at a distance of 36 miles south of Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters, has an area of 2,365.12 acres. The cultivated area, however, is only 208.22 acres. The population of the village in 1963 is 615 souls distributed over 107 households.*

It is the headquarters of the police-station and Community Development Block of the same name. It has a post office, a forest range office, one higher secondary school with 20 students, one basic middle school with 58 students, one State dispensary, one State veterinary dispensary, one District Board dak bungalow, one co-operative society, one grain-gola, one *gram panchayat* and some petty shops.

The village is still very primitive in spite of the Government offices. There is a tea stall where tea is served in thick glass tumblers to customers who are seated on *chatai*.

The villagers produce paddy, wheat, *jawar*, maize, gram, peas, oil-seeds, etc. There is no industry worth the name in the village.

The scenery surrounding the village is captivating but cannot easily be enjoyed all the year round because of its inaccessibility in certain seasons. The only approach to the village is a steep jeepable fair weather road connecting it with Bhabua, the headquarters of the subdivision of the same name. During the British regime, officers and big zamindars used to visit the area for enjoying the scenery and also for shooting. People still go there for *shikar*. The dak bungalow was primarily constructed about twenty years back to give accommodation to such people. Lime was made at Adhaura itself. Sleepers were cut to pieces at Chenari and carried as head load. Corrugated sheets and iron materials also had to be carried as head load.

Adhaura village is the headquarters of the police-station of the same name. The staff consists of one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, and eight Constables. The police-station was at first a police outpost only. According to the records available in the Subdivisional Officer's office, Bhabua it appears that land for the building of Adhaura police outpost was acquired in 1856 and that for Adhaura police-station building in 1862. This shows that the police-station was established near about 1862. This police-station generally has to deal on an average of 20 cases of petty thefts and burglaries in a year. In 1962 it had to deal with two murder cases

* The figures have been supplied by the Village Level Worker, Adhaura.

also. The thana has got no *Dafadari* or *Ghatwali* system. It has Chowkidars only under it who have to follow the daily *haziri* system for which they have to come to the thana. The thana has a beautiful garden in its compound maintained by the thana staff and is better maintained than the one in the Block office compound.

AKBARPUR.—This is an ancient and historical village situated at the foot of the Kaimur hill and three miles off from Rohtasgarh. A hill stream passes through it, which during the rainy season becomes quite formidable. The village has an area of 824.40 acres and 610 households. The total population is 3,557, i.e., 1,806 males and 1,751 females according to the figures supplied by the Rohtas Block Office (March, 1964).

J. F. W. James in the old *Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions regarding Akbarpur:—"Population 2,037. A village on the banks of the Son, thirty miles south of Dehri, the terminus of the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway. The village is situated at a short distance from the rocky precipice of Rohtasgarh; to its north stands Murli hill, two hundred feet high, consisting of limestone in thin strata. At the foot of the Rohtas plateau, there is a tomb of the kind known as *chardiwarrah*, built between 1636 and 1638 A.D. which consists of a four-walled enclosure containing a raised stone terrace and three prayer niches on the western side, with seven stone sarcophagi on a stone platform. Over the gate is a long Persian inscription recording the fact that the tomb was built for himself and his family by Malik Wisal, the *daroga* of Rohtasgarh, in the reign of Shah Jahan, when Ikhlas Khan was its *kiladar* or commandant. It mentions Akbarpur as one of the *parganas* forming the *jagir* of the *kiladar*.

"During the Mutiny Akbarpur and the neighbourhood were infested by the followers of Kuar Singh, and it was for sometime a centre of disturbance. In October 1858 the mutineers of the Ramgarh battalion, on being defeated at Chatra in Chota Nagpur, took up a position in Akbarpur, where they were joined by some of Kuar Singh's men. Here captain Rattray attacked them with his Sikhs and sowars, and drove them with some loss into the jungles towards Rohtas. On this occasion the cavalry of Rattray's battalion, who had been deprived of their carbines on suspicion of being disaffected and were armed only with *talwars*, fought with such gallantry that their carbines were restored to them in recognition of the loyalty and courage they had displayed.

"Akbarpur contains a charitable dispensary, a police-station (Rohtas), and an inspection bungalow. Here are the ruins of an old indigo factory, with the graves of the planter and his family in the compound. The house was used for many years as the inspection bungalow; but it has now fallen into ruin".*

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 150-151.

Since James wrote Akbarpur has had many changes in the village. The Muslim population is about 60 per cent in the village. The two major communities, the Muslims and the Hindus live in peace and amity. For instance, during the last election of the Akbarpur *gram panchayat* in 1962, a Hindu candidate was elected as *Mukhiya*.

The village is the headquarters of the police-station and Community Development Block of Rohtas. It was the terminus of the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway but since 1960 the line has been extended up to Pipardih. Two Up and Down passenger trains connect Dehri to Pipardih.

There are two lower primary schools, one *madarsa*, one middle school and one high school with 250 students and nine teachers. There is one library with about 750 books. The village has a dramatic club and a football team. The village has one temple, one *thakurbari*, two mosques and one *Idgah* where *Id* prayers are offered. It has one library with 750 books and on the average about 40 persons attend the library daily in the evening.

The village has a *gram panchayat*, one State dispensary with six indoor beds and a veterinary hospital. Besides, it has two allopathic, three homoeopathic and two *Ayurvedic* practitioners.

For water-supply, 20 wells exist in the village which are privately managed. Besides, 10 wells have been provided by the block.

About 1,750 persons have been inoculated and 900 persons have been vaccinated from 1960-61 to 1963-64.

Besides the permanent shops, a *hat* is held on Thursdays and Sundays. *Melas* are held in the village on the occasion of *Saraswati Puja* and *Durga Puja*. A big *mela* is held on the occasion of *Muharram* as well.

The village is much congested and the incidence of sanitation is very poor.

The village has a post office. On an enquiry it was ascertained that during 1962-63, on the average 121 money-orders were received every month for the average amount of Rs. 6,391. The average number of money-orders sent out every month come to 342 with the amount of Rs. 1,12,437. The post office serves the labourers and others working in Banjari and other quarries. The village has been provided with electric light and about 50 houses have been electrified till 1963. One multi-purpose co-operative society has been started with 90 members. A sum of Rs. 8,421 has been advanced as loan out of which Rs. 5,379 has been realised.

There is a grain-gola in the village which gives paddy seed to the Harijans and tribal people of the entire block area. On enquiry it was ascertained that ten persons had been given paddy seed during 1962-63 (50 maunds in total) which has not been realised as yet.

The village lacks proper irrigation facilities. The limestone quarries and the cement factory at Banjari, located at about two miles from Akbarpur provide a good source of labour employment to about 100 persons of this village.

AKORHI.—Akorhi, a village in the Bhabua subdivision, has a cattle fair held four times in a year in the months of *Falgun*, *Baisakh*, *Jeth* and *Kartick*. About 50,000 cattle are brought for sale and purchase at each of the *melas* at Akorhi.

ARRAH SUBDIVISION.—The last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions as follows:—

“Headquarters subdivision of the district, lying between 25° 10' and 25° 46' N., and 84° 17' and 84° 51' E., and extending over 917 square miles. Its population was 6,27,795 in 1921, its density being 684 to the square mile, as compared with the district average of 417 persons; in the Arrah thana the density is as great as 782 inhabitants to the square mile. The northern part of the subdivision consists of the low lands marking the old bed of the Ganges, which are annually inundated during the rains; in the remainder the alluvial soil is of more recent origin. Out of the total area 743 square miles are cultivated, of which 340 square miles are irrigated”*.

The subdivision has expanded enormously and there have been many-sided development.

The following chart will show the incidence of population in Arrah subdivision from 1901 to 1961:—

	Year.			Persons.	Males.	Females.
1901	..	..	..	699,956	329,564	370,392
1911	..	..	..	631,226	305,198	326,028
1921	..	..	..	627,795	306,793	321,002
1931	..	..	..	696,033	345,051	350,982
1941	..	..	..	796,871	396,262	400,609
1951†	..	..	..	885,270	441,077	444,193
1961‡	..	..	..	1,031,645	508,699	522,946

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 151.

† From 1901 to 1951 figures have been taken from *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951), page 3.

‡ *Census of India*, 1961, Vol. IV; *Bihar Part II-A, General Population Tables*, page 29.

From the census figure it appears that the population of the subdivision is increasing rapidly.

The Subdivisional Officer is the head of the administration of the subdivision. He is directly under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. There are eight police-stations, namely, Arrah Mufassil, Sandes, Barhara, Shahpur, Jagdishpur, Piro, Sahar and Tarari in this subdivision.

This subdivision has 11 Community Development Blocks, namely, Arrah, Udwanagar, Sandes, Barhara, Shahpur, Jagdishpur, Koilwar, Piro, Bihea, Sahar and Tarari. The Block is a unit for revenue administration as for the development work. Each Block has been placed under a gazetted officer who is called the Block Development Officer. He is normally of the rank of a Deputy Collector or a Sub-Deputy Collector. The Block Development Officer has to do all the revenue and development work of a Block.

There are two municipalities at Arrah and Jagdishpur towns in the subdivision. The details of the municipalities will be found on 'Local Self-Government' chapter.

As regards trade, this subdivision exports, rice, mango, grain, fish, etc., to Saran, Patna, Dinapur, Calcutta, etc. It imports medicine, machine, soap, shoes, etc., from Calcutta, Bombay, Kanpur, Varanasi, etc. The details will be found on 'Banking, Trade and Commerce' chapter.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the bulk of the population. Now the subdivision has got a network of electric propelled tube-wells regularly fed with water from the tube-wells.

The soil of the subdivision is very fertile due to the rich alluvial deposits made by the Ganga annually. The main crops are paddy, wheat, gram, maize, *rahar*, *masoor* and *khesari*. The details will be found on 'Agriculture and Irrigation' chapter.

The incidence of education is fairly high. The people of this subdivision pay much attention to education. There are 30 high schools including higher secondary schools and four colleges, 73 lower and upper primary schools in this subdivision.

This subdivision is well connected with rail, road and waterways. The details will be found on 'Communications' chapter.

This subdivision has two main rivers, i.e., Ganga and Sone. Ganga enters this subdivision from Buxar subdivision and flows from west to east. There are also many distributaries and branches of Sone canal which are for irrigation purposes. The rivers have been described in the General text.

There are no mineral deposits in this subdivision. As various aspects of the Sadar Subdivision have been covered in the different texts a repetition has not been made here. Although not industrialised the Sadar subdivision is important. It has a historicity of its own and being the headquarters of the district continues in importance.

ARRAH TOWN.—The last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions as follows:—

“The headquarters of the district, situated in $84^{\circ} 40'$ east longitude and $25^{\circ} 34'$ north latitude, about fourteen miles south of the Ganges and eight miles west of the Son.

“The population (1921) is 40,769. In 1901 the population was 46,170; but the town suffered severely from plague in the following few years, and in 1911 the population had fallen to 38,549. It is now again rising. The town was constituted a municipality on June 1st, 1865; there are 7,797 rate-payers, and the municipal board consists of thirty members, of whom twenty-four are elected. The town has a filtered water-supply from the Son. Arrah Junction railway station, 368 miles from Calcutta, on the main line of the East Indian Railway, is also the terminus of the Arrah-Sasaram light Railway”.

Legendary history.—“General Cunningham* has identified Arrah with the place mentioned by Hiuen Tsiang as that at which Asoka set up a stupa to commemorate the conversion by Buddha of the demons of the desert who feasted on the blood and flesh of men. Even to this day, a legend lingers that this part of the country was the home of a powerful demon named Bakra, whose daily food was a human being supplied either by the village of Bakri or by Chakrapur (or Ekachakra†), as Arrah was then called. During their wanderings, the five Pandavas came to Chakrapur and were entertained by a Brahman whose turn it was to supply a victim for the demon. Bhim Pandava, on hearing this declared that as he had eaten the Brahman's salt, he would go himself to the demon; and setting forth, he fought and killed him at Bakri, and then brought his body to Chakrapur. This myth is found in a more complete form in the Mahabharata; and General Cunningham considers that it must have been one of the time-honoured legends of antiquity which the Buddhists adopted for the glorification of their great teacher. The village of Bakri still exists in the near neighbourhood of Arrah, and though there are no ancient remains at either place, the Brahmanical legend of Bakrasur is, in the opinion of General Cunningham, so clearly identical with that of the man-eating demons described by the Chinese pilgrim that he accepts Arrah as the site of

* See A. S. I., Vol. III, pages 72—79 (Calcutta, 1873).

† Ekachakra is mentioned in the Mahawanso as one of the capital cities of India in the time of Buddha.

the stupa and lion pillar erected by Asoka. He further considers that the name of Aramnagar preserved in the modern Jain inscription at Masar was given to the town by the Buddhists when they adopted the Brahmanical legend; Aramnagar meaning the city of repose or monastery city, as *aram* (repose) was the special term used by the Buddhists to designate a monastery.

"Another account derives the name of the town from Aranya or desert; and an old temple standing between the old and new portions of the town still goes by the name of Aranya Devi. Various other legends, which have been devised to account for the name and which give more or less fanciful derivations of it, will be found in General Cunningham's article on Arrah in Vol. III Reports, A. S. I.

"The Emperor Babar marched to Arrah after his victory over Mahmud Lodi and his rebellious Afghan followers. Local tradition still points to a place near the site of the old courts of the District Judge as that on which he pitched his camp and celebrated his assumption of sovereignty over western Bihar; and it is said that the spot, which until recently used to be called Shahabad in commemoration of this event, was also the site occupied by the residence of the local *faujdar* who was in charge of *sarkar* Shahabad under the Mughal Emperors".*

Arrah has since expanded enormously and is now a large town. The following chart will show the incidence of the growing population of Arrah town from 1901 to 1961:—

Year.				Persons.	Males.	Females.
1901	..	..	..	46,170	22,019	24,151
1911	..	..	..	38,549	19,955	18,594
1921	..	..	..	40,769	21,564	19,205
1931	..	..	..	48,922	26,635	22,287
1941	..	..	..	53,122	28,456	24,666
1951	..	..	..	64,205	33,683	30,522
1961	..	..	..	76,766	41,748	35,018

The town is connected by rail, road and waterways. A large number of buses connect Arrah with Buxar, Dumraon, Piro, Jagdishpur, Sasaram, Patna, etc. Daily about 1,000 persons come to and go out from the town by the bus services. The two railway stations serving Arrah town bring more than 2,000 persons everyday to the

* District Gazetteer of Shahabad (1924), pages 151-152.

town and near about the same number leave the town through the railways as well. There are two railway stations in the town, one the Eastern Railway and the other the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway.

The main roads in the town are metalled. The Arrah Municipality maintains about five miles of *pucca* roads within the town. The vehicles within the town are buses, rickshaws, cycles, taxis, *tamtams* and bullock carts. The road traffic is extremely heavy for the narrow roads without footpaths or rickshaw tracks. Ponies were more in use before. The traditional Shahabadi on the horse was a common sight in Arrah town two decades back.

For the accommodation of the visitors in the town a circuit house, a dak bungalow, an inspection bungalow and *dharmashalas* are available. Besides, there are hotels and a number of cheap road-side eating houses and tea shops which also offer temporary accommodation. These road-side shops mostly cater for the litigant public who come from outside the town.

The main household industries of the town are soap making, handloom weaving, shoe-making, making of trunks and furniture. There are several rice mills.

Being the headquarters of the district, a large number of Government offices are located here. They include the offices of the District Magistrate, Subdivisional Officer, District Education Officer, Superintendent of Education, District Animal Husbandry Officer, District Agriculture Officer, Income Tax Officer, Central Excise Officer, Superintendent of Post Offices, Municipal Office, District Board Office, etc.

Public water-supply in the town is obtained from the two water-towers belonging to the Public Health Engineering Department. But as the supply is insufficient tube-wells with hand pumps have been sunk in many places. Some people use well-water from wells within their compound.

The town has 76 lower primary and middle schools, seven high and higher secondary schools including two for girls, and four colleges. The details will be found on 'Education and Culture' chapter.

The town has five libraries including one Muslim library. The biggest library of the town is the Jain library. The details will be found on 'Education and Culture' chapter. The town has one town club where indoor games are played and three children parks.

The sanitation of the town is poor. It is supervised by two Sanitary Inspectors. A conservancy staff of 120 headed by *Jamadars* is maintained who cleans about 2,320 private and public latrines.

The town has one Sadar hospital, one police hospital and one Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway hospital. The details will be found on 'Medical and Public Health Services' chapter.

There are four post offices in the Arrah town. The town has a telephone exchange with about 300 connections in the town only.

The town has one class I veterinary dispensary, three slaughter houses and four liquor shops. In order to organise the sale of pure milk and improve the quantity of milk, one *goshala* has been started which is privately managed. The State Government have distributed six bulls and cows to the *goshala*.

The town has about 30 grain-*golas*. On the average about 40 to 50 labourers work in each of the *golas* of the wholesale dealers. The town has a vegetable market and a fish market which are held daily. The chief modes of conveyance for carrying goods in the market are bullock carts, pack bullocks, *tamtam*, etc.

It is an important trade centre. Its hinterland has a rich produce of grain and vegetables.

There are some *mohallas* in the town which are named after particular castes such as Chiktoli, Mahajantoli, Milki, Ahirpura, Missirtoli and Bindtoli. The names of these *mohallas* indicate that the predominant population followed particular profession and belonged to particular occupational castes. Babu Bazar signifies the name of Babu Kunwar Singh and Maulabagh was named after a Muslim woman of the same name. The urbanisation trends of the town have been traced elsewhere.*

There is an electric power house in the town and there are two cinema houses. The students are the main patrons of the cinema house.

No account of Arrah town will be complete without a reference to some of its antiquarian remains. According to the local traditions, the town had various names in ancient time such as Chakra-pura, Ekachakra and Aramanagara.

There is a colossal statue of Vishnu kept in the garden of the Maharaja of Dumraon. It represents Vishnu although locally it is known as the Banasura. It originally belonged to the ancient site of Masarh and was brought to Arrah by the then Maharaja of Dumraon in 1882.

Three mosques in Arrah town require particular mention. Jama Masjid in the heart of the town was built up of bricks in the reign of Aurangzeb. The Maula Bagh Masjid was built by a Muslim wife of John Deane who in early 19th century was the Collector of Arrah and later became the Commissioner of the

* Urbanisation trends of Arrah have been discussed in the text on "People".

Division. Deane died in 1817 and was buried in the outer garden of the mosque. The building is found to be of mixed Saracenic style with foliated arches, three ornamental domes and eight minarets. It was constructed in 1834. There is another mosque which was built by Kuar Singh at the request of his Muslim keep, Dharman Bibi. Locally the mosque is known as Dharman Bibi *ki masjid*. It may incidentally be mentioned that Dharman Bibi accompanied Kuar Singh in his exploits against the British and died when Kuar Singh was fighting the British. Her grave was said to be somewhere at Kalpi. The building known as Arrah house became famous in 1857. It is a small two storeyed structure on a raised plinth built by Vicers Boyle, the then Engineer of the East Indian Railway (now Eastern Railway). It was intended as a billiard room and attached to the residence at a short distance away. In 1857 when insurrection broke out a number of British Officers took their refuge within this structure and put up a gallant defence till they were rescued.

BABHNAUL.—A village in Sasaram subdivision, situated at a distance of 11 miles north of Bikramganj. A metalled (Bikramganj-Dumraon) road runs nearby the village.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Dawath police-station and Dawath block. According to the census of 1951 its total population was 3,329, i.e., 1,683 males and 1,646 females. According to the figures supplied by the *Mukhiya* its total population is 3,835 in 1961. The villagewise 1961 census figures have not yet been published.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Brahman, Rajput, Pathan, Sayed, Kurmi, etc.

The village has a post office, a lower primary school, two upper primary schools and a middle school. There is a library in the village which was established in 1950. There are about 500 books in it. It subscribes daily newspapers. The readership is poor.

The main crops are paddy, wheat, gram, etc. There is a statutory *gram panchayat* in the village. The houses are mostly mud built with straw roofing. The village has got electricity. But very few houses have got electric connection. There are three flour mills. There are four temples and two mosques and five *kirtan mandalis* in the village.

Babhnaul is one of the largely populated villages of Shahabad district and has contributed largely to the Police and Army forces. This village along with a number of other large villages like Jagdishpur, Koath, Surajpura, etc., have suffered because the richer and the more advanced families have been migrating fast to the towns and their village interests are neglected.

BABURA.—Babura village is an important village situated at the north-east of the Shahabad district. To its north, on the other bank of the Ganga, lies the Saran district. Chapra is only five miles from here.

The bulk of the population consists of the Rajputs; then comes the Ahirs, Brahmans, Dusadhs, Hajams, Koeries, Harijans, etc. There are few Muslims also. Literacy is rare. In 1963 there were only five Matriculates, two I.As. and one B.A. There is one high school and one middle school. The people of this village do not seem to like female education. The Rajputs still insist on strict restrictions on the movement of the women. There are several temples and one mosque. There are five or six toddy shops.

Babura is a big village and it includes eight tolas. The local crops are wheat, gram, peas, mustard seeds, etc. There is no cultivation of *bhadai*, as the soil is sandy and there is no provision of irrigation. Fruits like melon, etc., grow in large number. There are ten grainshops and several shops to sell cloth, sweets and toddy.

There is one co-operative society in this village. The members of the co-operative society are trying to introduce joint co-operative farming in the village.

One remarkable feature is that most of the area of cultivated lands are in the hands of a very few people. There is a large number of landless people.

The importance of this village lies in river trade and traffic with Saran district, specially with Chapra. The people of Shahabad district come here mostly for going to Chapra or to any place in the Saran district. Mostly, the goods of Shahabad district, particularly rice and other foodgrains are exported to Saran district through this village. There are three ghats, viz., Ekama Ghat, Doriganj Ghat and Khalpura Ghat in its vicinity. The ghats are given on *bundobast* to the private contractors on annual basis on a lump sum, which varies from year to year. They take from the travellers 25 P. and the same charge for one maund of grain for crossing the river on their boats. Saran district is more of a scarcity area, and Babura village is the main supplier to that district. The people of this village do trade with Arrah, via 'Ganga'. From Arrah, they bring rice, pulse, sugar, etc., in exchange of the local products, i.e., the *rabi*.

There are a few roads leading to the village. But the condition of roads is not good. There is one *katcha* road from Semeria to Babura on Arrah-Chapra road. But it does not come straight to the village. Only *ekkas* can come by a *katcha* tract, passing through the fields via Kesopur. The other route is Koilwar-Babura road. Buses cannot run on this due to the sandy tracts. Koilwar is six miles from here and Maner is five miles. One can go to Chapra, which is five miles from here on foot after crossing the Ganga.

But in the rainy season, all communications come to an end. The flood waters surround and boats remain the only source of communication. They move to Arrah by boat via the Ganga canal. They move from village to village on boats. It is why even each well-to-do family keeps one or two boats for the rainy season. All schools remain closed during the rainy season. There is no summer vacation, instead the students get flood vacation.

The people of this village carry their economic transactions in several nearest primary and secondary markets, viz., Babura market, Chakia Bazar market, Rajapur Bazar, Jamalpur Bazar, and Matakpur Bazar. They also visit the Maner and Chapra Bazar and carry their sale and purchase.

BAIDYANATH.—This is a village six miles south of Ramgarh in Bhabua subdivision. In the north-east portion of the village there is a *Siva* temple, on a large mound, built of ancient *disjecta*, one of which is supposed to bear the name of Raja Madanapaladeva, probably of the Later Pratihara dynasty. Baidyanath is alleged to have been the capital of the *Savaras*. Though one of the most interesting sites in India it has never been thoroughly explored. It is surrounded on all sides by numerous ruins illustrative of the earliest Indian architecture. H. B. W. Garrick who visited the place in 1881-82 has left a very interesting account. (*A.S.R.*, Volume XIX, pages 27 to 47).

It is unfortunate that antiquarian remains at this village and near about have not been properly investigated. Buchanan Hamilton had visited Baidyanath and had mentioned that the ancient ruins were said to be attributed to Raja Madana Pala. In 1882 Garrick had excavated a part of the mound and found that the original temples consisted of the sanctum and a large pillared hall or *mandapa* and possibly a portico in its front. Garrick had traced three inscriptions. Dr. D. R. Patil* has mentioned that none of the inscriptions seems to have been noticed and edited subsequently. Half a mile north-east of the village is a low mound known as *Kakahaigarh* where old pottery and gold coins have been found. Round about the village there are numerous tanks having ancient names. Near the village there are ruins of numerous buildings known as *Kots*, some of which were called after the various hamlets nearby. Near the hamlet of Alampur are two high mounds where a number of coins were found some of them being of Akbar's reign. Garrick attributes all the ruins at Baidyanath to the Suirs or Sabaras but this does not appear to have been examined by any one.

BANJARI.—A village in Sasaram subdivision situated at a distance of five miles towards north-west from Akbarpur, the block headquarters has now become important because of a cement factory

* The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna) 1963 pages 9-10.

and lime quarry. It is under the jurisdiction of Rohtas police-station. It has an area of 565.85 acres and 164 households. The total population is 1,911, i.e., 1,169 males and 742 females according to the figures supplied by Rohtas Block Office. Kalyanpur Cement Factory is located in this village. There are lime-stone hills in the vicinity.

So far as communication is concerned this village has a railway station, viz., Banjari railway station of Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway. This village is connected by road from Dehri.

There are a number of permanent shops in the village and a *hat* is also held on every Sunday and Thursday. There is one liquor shop.

As regards medical facilities the factory has started one hospital with three indoor beds with one male Doctor, three Compounders and four Dressers. The State Government has started an Employees State Insurance dispensary for the registered labourers and factory hands.

There are two middle schools with 300 students and one high school with 175 students and four teachers. The incidence of literacy in the village is not very low. About 70 per cent of the villagers are employed in the factory.

The village has a post office in the premises of the cement factory. On the average 137 money orders are received with a corresponding amount of Rs. 6,319 per month. The average number of money-orders sent out every month comes to 212 for the amount of Rs. 10,310. The trends show that the place is inhabited by outsiders also who send money to their families.

As regards welfare facilities to the industrial labourers, the factory has started two voluntary welfare centres in the village and a library. There is also a recreation club and a good playground. For labourers one creche and one canteen have been provided. The village is electrified.

The village has a rest house maintained by the factory, two multi-purpose co-operative societies, a *gram* panchayat and two temples.

The village has a mixed population, consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. But the service holders have predominance in population in the village. The main castes are Rajput, Gwala, Bania, Brahman and Kayastha.

The details regarding "Kalyanpur Cement Factory" have been discussed elsewhere.

BHABUA SUBDIVISION.—The *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1906) mentions, "The South-Western Subdivision of the district, lying between 24°54' E., and extending over 1,301 square miles. Its population was 3,06,401 in 1901 against 3,44,902 in 1891, its density

being 236 persons to the square mile. The Kaimur hills in the south afford little space for cultivation, and the Bhabua thana with 181 persons to the square mile has the scantiest population of any tract in South Bihar. It is estimated that out of the total area, 505 square miles are cultivated; only 20 square miles are irrigated from the Son canals. The whole of the subdivision is very unhealthy, and it also suffered severely in the famine of 1896-97. It contains one town Bhabua, its headquarters and 1,427 villages. An old Hindu temple stands on Mundeshwari hill, and Chainpur also contains antiquities of some interest.”*

There was not much change in Bhabua Subdivision by 1924 when the next *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* was published. The population had slightly declined. The population of 1921 was a drop from the population of 1911 as will be shown later. Bhabua thana had a density of 182 persons per square mile which was the scantiest population of any tract in South Bihar. Bhabua thana included five hundred square miles on the Kaimur Plateau. Large and small games continued to be plentiful in the western portion of the plateau.

The following table will show the variation of population in Bhabua subdivision from 1901 to 1961:—

Year.				Persons.	Males.	Females.
1901	..	..	..	3,06,401	1,49,784	1,56,617
1911	..	..	..	3,07,089	1,50,838	1,56,251
1921	..	..	..	2,97,986	1,47,996	1,49,990
1931	..	..	..	3,24,841	1,63,874	1,60,967
1941	..	..	..	3,33,588	1,97,847	1,85,741
1951	..	..	..	4,40,138	2,24,300	2,15,838
1961	..	..	..	5,31,748	2,69,148	2,62,600

From the census figures it appears that the population of the subdivision is increasing rapidly.

The Subdivisional Officer is the head of the administration of the subdivision and he is directly under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. There are eight police-stations, namely, Bhabua, Mohania, Ramgarh, Durgawati, Kudra, Chainpur, Adhaura and Chand in the subdivision.

This subdivision has nine Community Development Blocks, namely, Bhabua, Mohania, Ramgarh, Durgawati, Kudra, Bhagwanpur, Chainpur, Adhaura and Chand. The block is an unit for

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1906), page 131.

revenue administration and for the development work. Each block has been placed under a gazetted officer who is called the Block Development Officer.

Bhabua town has a municipality. This is the only municipality in this subdivision. The details will be found on 'Local Self-Government' chapter.

As regards trade, this subdivision exports rice, gram, forest produce, etc., to Varanasi, Patna, Kanpur, etc. It imports medicine, machine, soap, shoes, etc., from Calcutta, Bombay, Kanpur, Varanasi, etc. The details have been dealt with in the chapter "Banking, Trade and Commerce".

Agriculture is the main occupation of the bulk of the population. Now the subdivision has got a network of electric propelled tube-wells.

The rivers which flow through this subdivision are Kao, Kudra and Durgawati. Kudra river is a branch of Kao.

Portions of the subdivision grow good rice. Although Bhabua subdivision has only one town, namely Bhabua, there are quite a large number of important villages. There are a number of important *melas* which have been mentioned elsewhere. The Grand Trunk Road passes through the subdivision and connects the subdivision with Varanasi and other places. The Grand Chord Line of the Eastern Railway also passes through the subdivision. The nearest railway station Bhabua Road of Eastern Railway connects the subdivisional headquarters. It is about nine miles from Bhabua the subdivisional headquarters. The details regarding the communication in the subdivision will be seen in the chapter "Communication". The conveyances are *tamtam*, bullock carts, ponies, taxis, buses, trucks, rickshaws and cycles.

The subdivision has no industrial importance so far.

The main castes of the subdivision are Brahmans, Bhumihars and Rajputs. There is a fair proportion of tribals and the Scheduled Castes. The tribals are mostly confined to the Kaimur plateau. Some attempts have recently been made to ameliorate the condition of the tribals an account of which will be found elsewhere.

It is also to be noted that there is a large number of Cheros and Kharwars scattered all over the subdivision. The Cheros and the Kharwars have a historic past. For quite a long time they were actually ruling over small tracts, often quarreling with each other due to the weak Government of the Muslim chiefs. Many of the villages will be found to have been built on mounds and there are places of natural hide-outs in the jungles and terrains. Almost like the Barons of England, these small Cheros and Kharwar chiefs would pay a tithe whenever any superior power would invade and would

quickly resume themselves when the menace was past. It is remarkable that the Cheros and the Kharwars like their counterpart in Palamau district are now claiming Rajput descent and are keen for inter-marriages with Rajputs. They still figure as Scheduled Tribes and get the benefits thereof although they claim Rajput lineage.

Although the subdivision has got a fairly good road system it has got a certain notoriety for crime. One of the probable reasons is the situation of the subdivision which is on the borders of the districts of Ghazipur, Varanasi, and Mirzapur of Uttar Pradesh and Palamau in Bihar. There have also been occasional instances of communalism in certain pockets of the subdivision.

BHABUA TOWN.—Regarding Bhabua town the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions as follows:—

“Headquarters station of the subdivision of the same name situated in 25°3' N., and 83°37' E. The population (5,435) is apparently stationary. The town is connected by a good road with Mohania, where is the Bhabhua Road station of the East India Railway* (10½ miles). Bhabhua was constituted a municipality in 1869; the municipal board consists of ten members, of whom eight are elected. There are 940 rate-payers. The town contains the usual subdivisional offices, a hospital, and a good inspection bungalow.”†

The town has since expanded. Although still rural, Bhabua has taken some urban traits. The total population in 1951 census‡ was 7,858 persons, i.e., 4,153 males and 3,705 females. In 1961 census its population was 9,890 persons, i.e., 5,378 males and 4,512 females.**

The town is well connected with Varanasi, Dehri-on-Sone, Arrah and Patna. Buses, trucks, rickshaws, *tamtams* and taxis ply in the town.

So far as the medical and public health is concerned, the town has a subdivisional hospital. Besides there are allopathic, homoeopathic and *Ayurvedic* private practitioners in the town. There is no sewerage system within the town. Being the headquarters of the subdivision, a large number of Government offices are located here.

The Bhabua Municipality has constructed wells and has sunk handpumps for drinking purposes. The sanitation work of the town is looked after by the municipality.

* Now Eastern Railway.

† *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 157.

‡ *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951), page 9.

** *Census of India, 1961, Volume IV, page 31.*

For the accommodation of the tourists and officials there is a dak bungalow in the town. Besides, there are *dharamshalas*, hotels and cheap eating houses which accommodate the visitors. There is a cinema house in the town.

The town has a big agricultural marketing centre. It deals in paddy, rice, wheat, gram, *khesari*, *masoor*, mustard-seeds, line-seeds and *magrila*, obtained locally and exported to Samastipur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Patna, Tatanagar, Jharia, Fatwah, Mokameh and Calcutta. There are a large number of whole-salers and retailers. Hats are held on Thursdays and Sundays. A cattle fair is held here in *Kartik*, *Magh*, *Chait*, *Baisakh* and *Jeth* every year.

BHAGWANPUR.—This is an ancient and historical village situated at the foot of Kaimur hill and seven miles towards the south from Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters.

The old *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions:—

“A village six miles south of Bhabhua, on the Shuara river, and on the road which runs from Bhabhua to Rohtas through Karar, across the Kaimur plateau. This is the seat of Kumar Chandra Sen Saran Singh, head of one of the most ancient Rajput families of the district. The family claim descent from the Rajas of Taxila, including King Porus among their ancestors, and describe how they migrated from Taxila to Fatehpur Sikri, and thence to Chausa and Chainpur. In the time of Sher Shah Raja Salivahana was head of the family, ruling the Chainpur—Sasaram country; he was killed and his property confiscated by Sher Shah. It is said that Babar Shah, son of Raja Salivahana, was reinstated in the zamindari by the emperor Akbar; and Babar Shah's younger son Jait Singh settled at Jaitpur, where his descendants still hold zamindari. The main branch of the family at Chainpur does not appear to have flourished; and Bhagwan Singh, great grandson of Babar Shah, retired to the banks of the Shuara, where he built a town named after himself, and a mud fort suitable to his reduced circumstances*. Petty zamindaris were founded after this by collateral branches of the family which still survive, by Kenu Shah, younger son of Bhagwan Singh at Sabar, and by Pahlwan Singh, younger son of Durga Shah, grandson of Bhagwan Singh, at Ramgarh. The head of the family at Bhagwanpur was nominally zamindar of Chainpur; and in 1766 the fortunes of the family were temporarily restored, when the zamindari was definitely recognised and Chainpur was settled with Raja Arimardan Singh, grandson of Durga Shah. The estate was subsequently farmed out, the later farmers being Reza Quli Khan and Ahmad Ali Khan; but Arimardan Singh would ultimately have obtained permanent settlement had he not been in outlawry from 1785, when he murdered a neighbour and absconded. The family was again

* Eastern India, Vol. I, page 450.

reduced to the position of petty zamindars, holding nothing beyond a few *malikana* villages; but its head was ordinarily styled Raja. Surajbhan Singh, father of the present head of the family held the title of Raja as a personal distinction; but he encumbered the small family property so heavily that little now remains."*

Since James wrote, Bhagwanpur village has had many changes. It has an area of 243.50 acres with 380 households. The total population (castewise) according to 1961 census as supplied by Bhagwanpur Block office is given below:—

(1) Scheduled Tribes	..	..	Nil
(2) Scheduled Castes	..	..	480
(3) Backward Classes	..	..	1,008
(4) Others	..	..	549

Though the village was dominated by the Rajputs but the 1961 census reveals that Backward and Scheduled Castes people form the majority. They are about 72 per cent in the village. That is why the *Mukhiya* of the *gram panchayat* of this village is elected among Harijans and the Rajputs have no voice. It is the headquarter of Bhagwanpur Development Block.

The details regarding the development made in the village is given below:—

There are one lower primary school with 121 students and three teachers, one middle school with 77 students and two teachers and one high school started in 1950 with 200 students and nine teachers.

For recreation the village has one *Balmandali*, one *natak mandali*, one *bhajan mandali*, one youth club, one library with 111 members and 644 books. There was also one Social Education Centre in the village but since December 1962 it has been abolished. The incidence of literary is as follows:—males 279, females 46, Total—325. To encourage the villagers, the State Government have given grant (rupees 100) during 1962-63 and 75 books in shape of grant during 1963-64 to Bhagwanpur library.

It has been discussed elsewhere that there is one State dispensary in the village and the villagers get relief from it. The details regarding the number of patients treated have been discussed elsewhere. On enquiry it was ascertained that though the block has provided one State dispensary in the village, the Medical Officer does not attend the dispensary regularly because he has to come from Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters and he has also to look to the Adhaura dispensary, 36 miles from Bhabua.

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 157-58.

For water supply and sanitation, 13 wells exist in the village which are privately managed. Only two wells have been repaired by the block during 1960 and 1962.

About 1,872 persons have been inoculated and 1,100 persons have been vaccinated from 1957-58 to 1962-63 in the village.

The village has a *gram panchayat*. The *panchayat* is held in its own *pucca building*.

There is no market or *hat* in the village. There are ten small retail shops in the village which any how meet the requirements of the villagers. The villagers generally go to Bhabua market to purchase the commodities.

The village has a post office since 1921. On enquiry it was ascertained that during 1962-63, on the average 97 money orders were received every month for the average amount of Rs. 4,371. The average number of money orders sent out every month comes to 87 with the amount of Rs. 4,539. Electricity has not been introduced in the village.

One multipurpose co-operative society has been started with 76 members. Rs. 7,421 has been advanced as agricultural loan out of which Rs. 4,379.00 has been realised.

There is one grain-*gola* in the village which gives paddy seed to *harijans* and tribal people of the entire block area. On enquiry it was found that five persons had been given paddy seed in the village during 1961-62 (25 maunds in total) which has not been realised as yet.

Impact of Community Development.—With the inception of the block in the village, the people have been much influenced. The block has tried to improve agriculture by supplying improved seeds and chemical manures. The villagers also prepare compost to apply in their own fields.

The table below supplied by Bhagwanpur Block will show the improved seeds distributed from 1958-59 to 1962-63 in the village.

Year.	Quantity of seeds in maunds.	No. of persons.
1958-59	.. 22 seers	2
1959-60	.. 2 maunds	5
1960-61	.. 3½ „	7
1961-62	.. 5½ „	6
1962-63	.. 11½ „	9

Chemical Fertilisers

Year.	Quantity in maunds.	No. of persons.
1960-61	1½ maunds	3
1961-62	2½ „	4
1962-63	5½ „	6

The following persons were interviewed to ascertain the impact of Community Development in the village:—

- (1) Bansidhar Pandey, (2) Kashi Pandey, (3) Sita Ram Lall, (4) Chunmun Lall, (5) Baleshwar Narain Verma, (6) Gopal Narain Singh, (7) Bishwa Nath Singh, (8) Lakshmi Choudhury, (9) Hanif Mian, and (10) Ram Karam Singh.

On enquiry it was ascertained that there has been some development in the incidence of agriculture, animal husbandry, education, etc. Prior to the inception of the block the villagers used to go to the office of the Subdivisional Officer, Bhabua for any work but now many of their problems are solved in block office.

Due to the opening of artificial insemination centre and veterinary dispensary, the villagers get much help in improving the breed and in the treatment of their animals. It was found that till 1963 in Bhagwanpur village about 50 cattle had been artificially inseminated and 525 animals were given treatment which they did not get before the inception of the block.

BHOJPUR.—The last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions Bhojpur as follows:—

“A village two miles north of Dumraon, in the Buxar subdivision. Population (1921) 3,605. The village derives its name from Raja Bhoj of Ujjain in Malwa, who is said to have invaded the district with a band of Rajput followers and subdued the aboriginal Cheros. There are remains of the ancient places of Bhoj Rajas, which would probably repay the labour of excavation. During the seventeenth century, and until 1745, this village was the headquarters of the Dumraon family. The village gave its name to the pargana; and the whole northern part of the district was commonly known as Bhojpur, and its inhabitants as Bhojpuris*.”

The District Census Hand-Book of 1951 mentions two Bhojpurs namely, Bhojpur *Kadim* and Bhojpur *Jadid*. The *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* has mentioned the *Kadim* Bhojpur. *Kadim* is an Urdu word which means old. According to the Census of 1951 the total population of Bhojpur *Kadim* was 4,903, i.e., 2,534 males and 2,369 females with 598 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 885†

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 158-159.

† *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951), page 176.

The village has a lower primary school, an upper primary school and a big market. Although the village has a rich past it is neglected now. The better classes of people have migrated to the towns. The village lives in its past although the currents beneath surface have been undermining the past also and Dumraon has stolen the tradition of Bhojpur.

In about 1812 Buchanan Hamilton visited Bhojpur and had noticed traces of the old channel of river Ganga which is now more than 10 miles away in the north. He had noticed ruins of bricks along the old channel and was of the opinion that an extensive town existed here which was swept away by the Ganga. There has been no proper exploration.*

BIBIGUNJ.—Bibigunj is a small village, six miles west of Arrah where the Buxar Road crosses the Banas river. This was the scene of a determined struggle on the 13th October 1664 when the contingent under Capt. Hector Manro was marching from Bankipore to Buxar. In 1857, Bibigunj was again destined to be the scene of an action between the revolting sepoys and troops under Vincent Eyre. Bibigunj has got a small market.

BIHEA (BIHIA).—A large village in the Sadar subdivision is on the main line of the Eastern Railway. It is well connected by road. One has to go a few miles on the first class Arrah-Buxar Road and turn left and Bihea is on the road towards Piro. Regarding this village the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* mentions as follows:—

“A village in the headquarters subdivision, situated on the East Indian Railway, 382 miles from Calcutta. Population (1921) 1,223. Bihia is an important trade centre, but is best known for the iron roller sugar mills worked by bullock power which were invented in 1874 by Messrs. Thomson and Mylne, grantees of the large confiscated estate at Bihia which formerly belonged to Kuar Singh (V. Jagdishpur). Some years elapsed before their great superiority over the rude machines then in use was recognised, and the inventors had to contend against wholesale piracy, but the popularity of the Bihia mills is now firmly established. The use of these machines as well as of countless imitations has become general throughout the province; and their introduction gave a powerful stimulus to the production of sugarcane and led to a great extension of the area under that crop both in this and other districts. Bihia was formerly the home of a branch of Hariobans Rajputs. According to their own traditions, they were originally settled at Ratanpur in the Central Provinces, but in 850 A.D. they migrated northwards to Manjha on the Gogra in the Saran district, where they waged successful war with the aboriginal Cheros. Two centuries later they

* *Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963. <

left Manjha and settled south of the Ganges at Bihia, and after a struggle lasting several hundred years subdued the Cheros who then held the country. In or about the year 1528 A.D., the Raja, Bhoput Deo, violated Mahini, a Brahman woman, who thereupon burnt herself to death and in dying imprecated the most fearful curses on the Harihobans Rajputs. After this tragedy the clan left Bihia and moved across the Ganges to Ballia. The tomb of Mahini lies under a *pipal* tree close to the railway at Bihia and is visited by large numbers of women who come either to invoke her as a deified being or to offer oblations in commemoration of her. It is said that nothing will induce members of the Harihobans sept to enter Bihia, though it was once the chief seat of their clan and the remains of their ancestors' fort may still be seen there."*

Iron roller sugar mills worked by bullock power have now gone out of use. Electricity is available in the town.

According to the census of 1961 its total population is 8,883 persons. It has a police-station and a block office of the same name. It has a dak bungalow, a higher secondary school, a teachers training school, a middle school, two primary schools, a State dispensary, a veterinary hospital and a post and telegraph office.

This sub-urban village 16 miles from Arrah and served by roads, and railway is inhabited by Hindus and Muhammadans communities. The Marwaris and Banias form the largest majority in the village.

The chief commerical classes are Agrawals, Marwaris and the Banias. There are some doctors. The Marwaris are both bankers and traders. Banias are usually petty traders in cloth and grains and they are the people that usually have grocery shops at street crossings. The *puri* (wheat bread fried in *ghee*) is of superior quality sold by the *Halwais* (sweetmeat makers). There are about 20 timber dealers, 10 stone-slab dealers, 20 grain shops, 30 sweetmeat shops, 20 cloth shops and about 50 miscellaneous shops in the village. The village has a big market of grains.

The principal exports are rice, paddy, cattle, linseed, *gur*, cart wheels, etc., and are exported to Arrah, Patna, Danapur, Ballia and Chapra. The principal imports are timber, stone-slab, medicine and cloth and are imported from Nepal, Mirzapur, Calcutta and Bombay respectively. There are 13 rice and oil mills in the village which are run by local businessmen.

Bihea is now one of the most important grain markets in Shahabad district. Hundreds of bullock carts and some camels are commonly found everyday in connection with turnover of the commodities. The tomb of Mahini still attracts hundreds of worshippers. A police thana was opened because of the importance

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 161-62.

of the place and the recent opening of a block with headquarters at Bihea has added to the development of the township. Land price in the *bazar* area has gone up about hundred times in the course of last one decade.

BIHTA.—This village commonly known as Bihta Danwar is under the jurisdiction of Tarari police-station and its thana number is 449. It is at a distance of about 30 miles south-east from Arrah, the district headquarters. The total population according to the census of 1951 was 3,648, i.e., 1,857 males and 1,791 females. The total number of literates was 426, i.e., 385 males and 41 females.* The 1961 census figures are not available.

The Dehri-Arrah canal passes near by the village. The villagers are much benefited by canal irrigation. The village is under the Package Programme. Almost all the villagers have given a portion of their land in intensive cultivation. The main produce of this village are paddy, wheat, potato, etc.

This village is electrified and there are two flour mills. There is a high school established in 1934. At present (April, 1964) there are about 500 students (boys and girls) and 10 teachers. Besides, there are a lower primary school and an upper primary school.

There is also a District Board *Ayurvedic* dispensary in the village. It was established in 1954. It was reported by the *Vaidya* that about 25 patients daily visit the dispensary.

The occupations of the villagers are agriculture, service, business, labour, etc. The main castes are Rajput, Bhumihar, Goala, etc.

There is a Sri Krishna *Pustakalaya* in the village. There are about 700 books and it subscribes daily newspapers. The village has a post office and a *gram panchayat*.

BIKRAMGANJ.—A town situated at a distance of 35 miles south from Arrah. It was treated as town for the first time in 1961 census. The total population of the town is 5,681, i.e., 3,083 males and 2,598 females distributed over 829 households.

The town is well connected with both Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway and a number of roads. A large number of buses ply and connect this place with Arrah, Bhabua, Sasaram, Nasriganj, etc. Bikramganj is an important railway station on Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway. It is understood that about 1,500 persons daily come and go out from the town using the buses and the railways.

The town is intersected by a number of metalled roads towards Arrah, Sasaram, Nasriganj and Babhnaul. The District Board maintains about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of *pucca* road within the town. The *mahallas* have unmetalled paths. The vehicles are rickshaws, cycles, *tamtams*, taxis, bullock carts, ponies, etc.

* District Census Hand-Book, Shahabad (1951), page 158.

The town has one higher secondary school, one senior basic school, three middle schools and four lower-upper primary schools. There are two libraries in the town. The daily readership consists of about 20 persons at each of the libraries. There is a Degree College now (1964).

The town has no municipality or Notified Area Committee. The sanitation of the town is looked after by the District Board. It is supervised by a *jamadar*. A conservancy staff of 10 persons clean the town. For water-supply the town has private wells and tube-wells. The District Board has provided about 30 tube-wells. The town has got the facility of electricity.

There is a dispensary maintained by the Dumraon Raj. It has eight beds. There are two doctors including one lady doctor in the dispensary.

The town has two post offices, one class I veterinary dispensary, one liquor shop, one *khadi gramodyoga ashram*, etc. There was a sugar factory in the town but it has closed now due to the shortage of the raw materials.

The town has a number of household industries like rope-making, blanket manufacturing, soap-making, carpentry, pottery and blacksmithy. There is an oilmen's industrial co-operative society and a blanket weaving co-operative society in the town.

The town has about 10 grain-golas. On the average about 10 to 15 labourers work in the *gola* of the wholesale dealers. The town has about 10 rice, oil and flour mills.

The town has a market of a variety of shops. There are about 15 cloth shops, 20 *kirana* shops, etc., in the town.

The town plays an important role as a trade centre. The market has a turn over of foodgrain and the sources of supply are mostly from the neighbourhood. There are a number of wholesalers and retailers.

BRAHAMPUR.—It is a large village in the Buxar subdivision, situated on Arrah-Buxar road. It is about 24 miles west of Arrah. It has a police-station and a block office of the same name. The nearest railway station (Raghunathpur of the Eastern Railway) is about 2 miles from the village.

The village has a post and telegraph office with a public call office, an inspection bungalow, a higher secondary school, a lower primary school, an upper primary school, a Sanskrit *pathshala* and a *gram panchayat*.

The village is just like a small township. There are several shops of various kinds. A *hat* is held here on every Saturday. It deals mainly in paddy, rice, *arhar*, gram and vegetable, obtained and consumed locally.

Two religious-cum-cattle fairs are held here in the months of *Falgun* and *Baishakh* respectively. Thousands of people assemble here on these occasions and perform *puja* and worship Lord Shiva in the famous local temple.

BUXAR SUBDIVISION.—It lies in the north-western part of Shahabad district. It has an area of 683 square miles. It has 724 villages and two towns, namely, Buxar and Dumraon. The variation in population of Buxar subdivision during the last fifty years has been as follows:—

Year.				Buxar Sub- division.	Buxar Reve- nue Thana.	Dumraon Revenue Thana.
1901	..	..	..	416,704	156,426	260,278
1911	..	..	..	382,971	148,840	234,131
1921	..	..	..	352,137	131,274	220,863
1931	..	..	..	383,050	141,179	241,871
1941	..	..	..	457,902	171,383	286,519
1951*	..	..	..	536,754	216,302	320,452

The incidence of the present rural and urban population according to 1951 Census is as follows:—

Persons.			Males.			Females.		
Total.	Rural.	Urban.	Total.	Rural.	Urban.	Total.	Rural.	Urban.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
536,754	502,062	34,692	270,519	252,291	18,228	286,235	249,771	16,464

The population of the rural area according to the Census Reports of the years 1921, 1931, 1941 and 1951 has been as follows:—

Year of Census.				Buxar rural area (Population.)	Total Population of subdivision.
1921	..	..	..	325,907	352,137
1931	..	..	..	355,190	383,050
1941	..	..	..	426,707	457,902
1951	..	..	..	502,062	536,854

* Detailed figures for 1961 Census are not yet published.

The total population for Buxar subdivision shown in Shahabad District Census Handbook published in 1954 is 5,36,754 which is a printing mistake and it should be 5,36,854.

The population of the two towns in Buxar subdivision has been on the increase as follows:—

Year of Census.				Buxar town.	Dumraon town.	Total.
1921	..	..	..	10,098	14,132	26,230
1931	..	..	..	13,449	14,421	27,860
1941	..	..	..	14,879	16,316	31,195
1951	..	..	..	18,087	16,605	34,692

While the increase of population in Dumraon town has been gradual that of Buxar town has been rapid.

According to 1951 Census Buxar subdivision has got a total number of 76,560 houses, out of which 70,343 situate in rural areas and 6,217 in the urban areas. The subdivision has got one newly started college (at Dumri, P.-S. Dumraon), one agricultural school at Dumraon, 21 high English schools and 52 middle schools. This subdivision has got two municipalities, namely, Buxar and Dumraon.

Buxar subdivision has got six thanas with population as follows:—

Name of Thanas.			Population.
Buxar Police-Station	..	..	85,224
Dumraon Police-Station	..	..	1,76,582
Rajpur Police-Station	..	..	81,353
Itarhi Police-Station	..	..	49,725
Nawanagar Police-Station	..	..	67,532
Brahmpur Police-Station	..	..	76,438

According to the census of 1951 there are 1,24,073 males and 1,22,181 females as cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents; 41,632 males and 40,658 females as cultivators of land wholly or mainly un-owned and their dependents, 53,648 males and 56,258 females as cultivating labourers and their dependents, 2,356 males and 2,674 females as non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependents. Persons (including dependents) who derive their principal means of livelihood from

other than agriculture are 10,901 males and 10,364 females from production other than cultivation, 14,839 males and 14,083 females from commerce, 2,575 males and 2,379 females from transport and 20,495 males and 17,638 females from other services and miscellaneous sources. These figures show that the main occupation of the people of this subdivision is agriculture. This is obvious as due to the Sone-irrigation canal system, agriculture plays an important role in the economic life of the people here. Next to agriculture comes commerce. The main commerce is export of foodgrains. This subdivision as well as the entire district supplies foodgrains, namely, paddy, *khesari*, *masoor*, gram, etc., to Ghazipur and Ballia districts in Uttar Pradesh, Saran district, etc. The other commodity exported is fish, which is available mainly in the Ganga and to a certain extent in the Karmanasa river. There are very few industries in this subdivision. The only industry is the milling of rice in the mills, which entirely depends on the incidence of agriculture. Besides this, there are one Lantern Factory and one Cold Storage at Dumraon. There are 11 rice, flour and *dal* mills in this subdivision giving employment to 243 persons. There is one hosiery mill at Buxar but it is not functioning. One paper factory is going to be set up at Dumraon.

A large number of females, who are shown as earning their living by transport are really dependent on the males who earn their living by means of transport. The principal means of transport in this subdivision are boats and bullock carts.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the bulk of population. Now the subdivision has got a network of electric propelled tube-wells regularly fed with water from the tube-wells.

Some statistics of cattle may be interesting. According to 1951 Livestock Census there are 65,043 working bullocks and 44,973 cows in the rural areas of Buxar subdivision while in the urban areas 1,059 bullocks and 1,565 cows. Horses and ponies number 1,762 in the rural and 141 in the urban areas. The Hariana Cattle Farm at Dumraon is a national asset. Bulls within 10 miles of Dumraon are being castrated and artificial insemination is being offered from this cattle farm. The farm has an excellent piggery and goat-farm besides a large number of breeding bulls and buffaloes of very superior type and Hariana cows.

The Community Development Blocks at Buxar, Dumraon, Simri, etc., have been described elsewhere.

The soil of the subdivision is very fertile due to rich alluvial deposits made by the Ganga annually. The main crops are paddy, wheat, gram, maize, *rahar*, *masoor* and *khesari*. The pressure on land is acute and the people of the Subdivision are well known for a craze for litigation, arising mainly as a result of land dispute.

The *diara* disputes are a problem. The mid-stream boundary between Ballia district in U. P. and Shahabad constantly changes and as the land laws are different in the two areas causes a lot of trouble. The matter is being investigated.

The administrative set-up consists of a Subdivisional Officer, who is a first class Magistrate directly subordinate to the District Magistrate. His staff consists of several Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Collectors. His staff for the revenue purposes are a Deputy Collector incharge of Land Reforms and Development work and Circle Officers and *Anchal Adhikaries*. There is a Deputy Superintendent of Police who is incharge of the Police administration of the subdivision under the direct control of the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate. For civil administration there are a number of Judicial Officers posted at Buxar. The incidence of litigation both, civil and criminal, is on the decline with the functioning of the *gram panchayats* under the Gram Panchayat Act, 1947, and the promulgation of the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1951. There is a subdivisional hospital at Buxar under a Civil Assistant Surgeon.

The Central Jail at Buxar, one mile towards west of Buxar town is one of the biggest jails in the State. It has been in existence since 1851 and the present capacity is 1,022 prisoners. There is no provision for female prisoners in this jail. The jail industries consist of the manufacture of carpets, durries, uniforms for orderlies and rural police, tents, etc. The Buxar Central Jail has a primary school for the children of the jail staff and a library for the use of the warders.

Buxar has got a number of important villages, namely, Ahiraouli, Bhojpur, Brahmpur, Chausa, etc. They have been separately covered.

Melas and fairs in Buxar subdivision.

BUXAR TOWN.—Buxar town and the northern portions of Buxar subdivision situate on the bank of the Ganga. On account of this geographical factor, a large number of people gather at Buxar on various occasions for *pūja* and bathe in the river which is held sacred by the Hindus. Rural people also assemble at important places to purchase and sell cattle required for agricultural operations. *Melas* and fairs may be divided into two heads, namely, religious *melas* and secondly *melas* which fall under the category of cattle fairs.

At Buxar town alone, as many as four religious *melas* are held at various periods of the year. The biggest, undoubtedly, is the *Makar Sankranti Mela* which is held on the 18th day of solemn month of *Push*, corresponding approximately to the 14th January of each year. On this day the sun enters the sidereal of zodiac,

This *mela* is also popularly known as *Khichari mela*. Roughly 40 to 50 thousand men, women and children, assemble in the town, camp there at several places and bathe in the Ganga at the famous Ramrekha Ghat. The bathing in the Ganga usually continues for three days. A large number of shopkeepers and businessmen flock to Buxar town on this occasion and numerous stalls and shops are set up in and around the Ramrekha Ghat. Particular mention may be made of timber goods like cots, door planks, boxes of all designs, ploughing implements and wooden wheels of bullock carts. A number of carnivals, *nowtanki* parties (shows), dancing parties, etc., congregate and provide recreation to visitors and pilgrims. The nickname of *khichari* is derived from the fact that visitors and pilgrims partake of rice and *dal* in mixed up quantities yielding to what is popularly called *Khichari*. In the last week of January or the first week of February another *mela* called '*Muni Amawas*' or *Maghi Amawas* is held at Buxar which has a wide religious appeal. As many as 30 to 40 thousand persons visit this *mela*. It has a special significance in view of the fact that pilgrims attend it on returning from Pashupati Nath temple at Kathmandu of Nepal or Bishwanath temple of Kashi (Varanasi). The pilgrims carry sacred water from the above illustrious places for worship of Lord Shiva. The *mela* is held on the final day of the fortnight in the month of *Magh*.

A third religious *mela* is held at Buxar which is known as *Chait Sankranti*. It also bears other names, viz. *Satuan mela* and *Chaiti Sankranti*. It is held in the month of March. It is also a predominantly religious gathering and roughly 20 to 30 thousand men and women attend it. The fourth *mela* held at this place is known as *Panch Kosi*. It is a general *mela* with no religious importance. It is held in the month of *Asin* corresponding to the month of October. Here people assemble in a light-hearted and joyous mood and are inclined to have recreation and amusement. Visitors prepare what is popularly known as *Litti Bhanta* for their meals. This *Litti Bhanta* is a special item of food in the district of Shahabad. The *Litti Bhanta* consists of wheat flour, *Satua* (powder of gram), *ghee*, various spices like *jawain*, *mangrail*, garlic, red pepper, mustard oil, salt, ginger, etc.

Two religious fairs are also held at Brahampur, an important thana in this subdivision. The first fair is held in the month of *Falgun* on *Maha Shivratri* day. This *mela* is a religious-cum-cattle fair. Roughly as many as 70 to 80 thousand people assemble on this occasion and many of them perform *pujas* and worship Lord Shiva in the famous local temple. This provides the greatest assemblage of persons in Brahampur thana. The second *mela* of religious importance is held in *Baisakh Shivratri* corresponding to the month of May. It is held with the same purpose, i.e., offering of *puja* and worship of Lord Shiva. The gathering is limited. There are three cattle fairs which are held in this subdivision and are

exclusively meant for sale and purchase of different kinds of cattle. The biggest cattle fair is held at Buxar on the *Ram Nawami* day in the month of March on the eastern outskirts of Buxar town on the main Arrah-Buxar Road. Several thousand bullocks and cows are brought from various adjacent and distant places like Ballia, Ghazipur, etc. Horses and even elephants were previously brought to this fair for sale. Elephants are now practically scarce but horses are still brought to this cattle mart. This *mela* lasts for a week or 10 days. The second cattle fair is held at Kothi on the eastern fringe of the town on the *Ganga Dashara* day in *Jeth* corresponding to the month of June. Bullocks, cows and buffaloes are brought to this fair though in limited scale. People numbering 40 to 50 thousand assemble on this occasion. The third cattle *mela* is held at village Niazipur in Dumraon police-station on *Kartick Purnima* day. As many as 50,000 people assemble and brisk sale and purchase of cattle take place.

Shikar facilities.—Although there is no forest or jungle in this subdivision yet the *diaras* offer an opportunity for Shikar. In Umarpur Diara, Beasi Diara, Sheopur Diara, etc., of this Subdivision spotted deer and black buck are found in large numbers. Besides, winter birds, and particularly, various kinds of ducks flock in the Ganga in thousands during the winter. They come from the Himalayan regions and stay here for a short time from November to March, before they leave for colder regions. There is also a *dah* (tank) in Bhojpur where also these birds come during the winter. A scheme has been undertaken by the Irrigation Department for reclamation of the *dah* for draining out water into the Ganga. The seasonal incidence of avi-fauna population at this place will end when the scheme is completed.

Diara areas are only accessible by means of jeep or *tamtam* as there are no metalled roads. The approach is, therefore, rather difficult except by jeep or *tamtam*. Umarpur Diara is seven miles from Buxar. Beasi Diara is about 10 miles from Dumraon. Sheopur Diara lies partly in Dumraon police-station and partly in Brahmpur police-station and is about 12 miles from Dumraon.

BUXAR TOWN.—An old town situated on the bank of Ganga river is the administrative headquarters of Buxar subdivision. It has an area of 4.9 square miles with 4,163 households. The total population of the town according to 1961 census was 23,068, i.e., 12,353 males and 10,715 females.

Regarding Buxar town the *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions as follows:—

“Headquarters town of the subdivision of the same name, situated on the north-bank of the Ganges in 25°34'N and 83°58'E. The population in 1921 was 10,098. The population has been steadily declining since 1881, when it was 16,498. Buxar, with other

riverside marts, has suffered from the changes in methods of transport which have followed the development of the Bengal and North-Western Railway* in the districts north of Ganges, and from the tendency to make a distributing centre of each small railway station, rather than to bring goods into the old market town and to re-book them from there. Buxar has a station on the East Indian Railway†, 411 miles from Calcutta; and there is here a considerable railway settlement. There are 2,782 rate-payers‡ in the municipality, which was constituted in 1869; and the municipal board consists of ten members of whom eight are elected. The central jail is the largest in the province.

"Buxar is said to have been the home of many of the authors of the Vedic hymns and to have been called originally *Vedagarbha*, i.e., the womb or origin of the Vedas. Local tradition derives the name of the town from a tank near the temple of Gaurisankar which was originally called *aghsar* or effacer of sin, but in course of time came to be called *baghsar*. The story runs that a *rishi* or sage, called Bedsira, having transformed himself into a tiger to frighten the *rishi* Durvasa of whom he was jealous, was doomed by the latter to retain that form for ever. He was restored to his original shape by bathing in the holy tank of *aghsar* and then worshipping Gaurisankar, and in commemoration of this event the spot was called *Vyaghrasar* or *Baghsar*, i.e., the tiger tank. Buxar is an old Brahmanical site and various parts of it have ancient names such as Rameswar, Viswa-mitra-ka asram and Parasu Rama; but it has few remains of archaeological interest. The most notable temple in the town is that of Rameswar Nath Mahadeo to which pilgrims resort from distant places.

"Buxar is famous as the scene of the defeat, on October the 23rd in 1764, of Mir Kasim and the Nawab-Wazir of Oudh, Shuja-ud-daula. In this action Major Munro had 857 Europeans, 5,297 sepoy and 918 Mughal horse, making a total force of 7,072 while the number of guns on the field was twenty-eight. The combined force of the enemy ten times outnumbered that of Major Munro, among them being the disciplined battalions of Somru and Madoc, with field pieces worked by Europeans, the powerful batteries of Shuja-ud-daula's artillery and the splendid Durani horse, with a number of Europeans of other than British nationality, who had deserted the Company's army in the mutinies at Sawath and on the Karamnasa. The enemy's loss was very great; two thousand lay dead on the field, and more were wounded, while double that number must have perished in the Thorinala and during the pursuit. Major Munro's losses were 39 Europeans and 250 Indians

* Now Eastern Railway.

† *Ibid.*

‡ Now (1964) 4,163 rate-payers.

killed, and 62 Europeans and 435 Indians wounded..... Until recently the battle-field was marked by no monument; but a memorial pillar has now been placed on the site.

"The fort of Buxar* standing on a high bluff above the Ganges and effectually commanding the reaches of that river, was long a position of considerable strategic importance. After this victory it passed into the hands of the British, and the land round it which now forms the fort bazar estate was acquired for military purposes in 1770. Both remained under the Commandant of the fort until 1840, when the bazar estate was handed over to the civil authorities; but the fort land remained under the military authorities as a cantonment until 1842, when it was handed over to the Stud Department. In 1873 the Stud Department was directed to give up farming and purchase grain and forage in the open market, and by 1875 all the land held by it had been handed over to the civil authorities; since that year it has been managed as Government estate".†

Since James wrote Buxar has had a change.

The town is connected with rail, road and waterways. A large number of buses connect Arrah, Bhabua, Sasaram, etc. Daily about 1,000 persons come to and go out from the town. Through waterways one can easily reach Ballia in Uttar Pradesh. At Ram Rekha Ghat in the town there is a pontoon bridge connecting Ram Rekha Ghat with Ujjiar ghat in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh. The bridge is under the control of Uttar Pradesh Government. The bridge functions from October to June every year. The average daily traffic on this bridge is about 1,000 passengers, 25 bullock carts and 12 cars‡. The bridge is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs long and is well maintained. Between June and September the crossing is made by a steamer launch provided by the Uttar Pradesh Government.

The town has got one small landing ground maintained by the Public Works Department. The air strips are used by the smaller planes, private or State. The landing ground is serviceable only in the fair weather.

The main roads in the town are metalled. The Buxar Municipality maintains about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of *pucca* roads within the town. The vehicles within the town are buses, rickshaws, cycles, *tamtams* and bullocks carts. There are private cars and taxis in the town.

* At present (1964) the Subdivisional Magistrate of the Buxar Subdivision has his residence within the fort.

† *District Gazetteer of Shahabad*, by J. F. W. James (1924) pages 162—164.

‡ Observation in March, 1964.

The town has one dak bungalow, two inspection bungalows and one *dharamshala*. There are some cheap roadside eating houses, tea shops, and a few hotels of poor standard for temporary accommodation.

Being the headquarters of the subdivision, a large number of Government offices are located here. They include the offices of the Subdivisional Officer, Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officer, Subdivisional Agricultural Officer, Project Executive Officer (Package), Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of Central Jail, etc.

The town has one junior basic school, nine primary schools including two for girls, one middle school for girls, three higher secondary schools including one for girls with 1,010 students and 49 teachers and one college with about 400 students and 15 lecturers.

Besides, the town has one senior residential school with about 50 students and two teachers. The students are provided free lodge and boarding. There is one medical attendant to look after the health of the students. The entire expenditure is borne by the State Government. The residential school at Buxar gets Rs. 78,282 annually. In order to solve the problem of accommodation of the students of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, the State Government have started one hostel in the town which accommodates 13 students.

The town has four libraries. On the average about 35 persons daily visit each of the libraries. The town has one town club where indoor games are played and four parks for the children, one managed by the municipality and one by the Irrigation Department.

The sanitation of the town is poor. It is supervised by a Sanitary Inspector. A conservancy staff of 100 headed by a *Jamadar* is maintained who clean about 2,407 private and public latrines.

For water-supply the town has a number of surface and tube-wells. The Buxar Municipality has given about 100 tube-wells in the town. The town is electrified and about 2,109 houses have been electrified. Electricity is not much used for small industries.

The town has one subdivisional hospital maintained by the State Government with three doctors including one female doctor and other staff. The table below supplied by the Subdivisional

Hospital, Buxar will give the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated during 1960-61 to 1963-64.

Year.	No. of patient treated.	
	Outdoor.	Indoor.
1960-61	41,554	2,278
1961-62	31,125	2,623
1962-63	24,938	2,526
1963-64 (up to December 1964).	22,437	2,140

Besides, the town has a number of allopathic, homoeopathic and *Ayurvedic* practitioners.

The town has three post offices. On an enquiry from the Buxar post office it was ascertained that on the average 1,213 money orders for Rs. 32,410 are sent out and on the average 920 money orders for Rs. 54,712 are received per month. The town has a telephone exchange with 45 connections in the town only.

The town has one class I Veterinary dispensary, five slaughter houses and two liquor shops. It was personally observed that about 100 persons visit the liquor shops daily. In order to organise the sale of pure milk and improve the quantity of milk, one *goshala* has been started which is privately managed. The State Government have distributed ten *Haryana* bulls and some cows to the *goshala*. The average yield of a *Haryana* cow is about 10 pounds per day.

The household industries in the town are rope making, soap making, carpentry, pottery, blacksmithy and hand pounding of rice. There is also an oilmen's industrial co-operative society and there are 20 oil *ghani kolhus* in the town employing about 100 persons.

The town has about 20 grain-golas. On the average about 15 to 25 labourers work in the *gola* of the wholesale dealers. The town has about 39 rice, oil and flour mills.

The town has a market and also a *hat* which is held on every Monday and Thursday. People from outside come to this market to sell or barter their wares and buy whatever they require for the ensuing week. The chief modes of conveyance for carrying goods in the *hat* are bullock carts, pack bullocks, *tamtams* and trucks. The town has fifteen fair price shops which supply sugar and wheat to the people.

It is an important trade centre. Its hinterland is very rich for grains and vegetables. Fish is obtained from the Ganga and the local water pools and sent to Calcutta, Patna and other places. The Buxar Central Jail manufactures *newar*, *durries* and carpets, etc. They have a good market outside the district. The main trade of the town is in green vegetables, fish and the manufactured goods of

the jail industry. The main articles exported from Buxar town are rice, wheat, gram, linseed, fish, onion and mustard seed, etc. The main places where the commodities are sent are Ballia, Patna, Varanasi, Calcutta, Danapur, etc.

The following chart will show the incidence of population in Buxar town from 1901 to 1961*:-

Town.	Year.	Persons.	Variations.
Buxar	1901	13,945	
	1911	11,309	-2,636
	1921	10,098	-1,211
	1931	13,449	+3,351
	1941	14,879	+1,430
	1951	18,087	+3,208
	1961	23,068	+4,981†

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN THE TOWN.

Old finds.—In 1927 the Bihar and Orissa Government had an exploratory excavation in Buxar town in Shahabad district. The site was located by the side of the river Ganga opposite the Buxar fort which now has the residences of the Subdivisional Officer, Buxar and others. This excavation was done by Prof. A. P. Banerjee Shastri of Patna University.

Banerjee Shastri's excavation brought out a large number of terracottas, bricks, potteries (painted and otherwise), plaques, etc., which are preserved in the Patna Museum as mentioned in Banerjee Shastri's article, "The remains of pre-historic civilization in the Gangetic Valley in K. B. Pathak's Commemorative Volume 10, published by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona in 1934." All the terracottas found were females except one representing a male dwarf strongly reminiscent of the Astarte Plaque.

A hoard of copper coins in one pitcher was discovered in the same area by a fisherman subsequent to Prof. Banerjee Shastri's excavation. On analysis, the hoard was found to contain the coins of Wina Kadphises, Kanishka, Huvishka, etc.

- (1) Wina Kadphises—with Shiva standing by the side of the bull—23 pieces.
- (2) Kanishka—with four armed Shiva—7 pieces.
- (3) Kanishka—with wind god on the reverse—44 pieces.
- (4) Deities not identified—108 pieces.
- (5) Huvishka—Elephant rider type—88 pieces.
- (6) Huvishka—King seated with cross leg—84 pieces.
- (7) Unidentified—48 pieces.

* *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* 1951, page 8.

† *Census of India* (1961 census), page 176.

These finds have been referred to in the "Journal of Numismatic Society of India" Volume 12, Column 2, page no. 121 by Dr. A. S. Altekar.

Some of the female figures found by Prof. Banerjee Shastri have typical head gear of pre-Mauriyan times. Shastri's excavations were more of re-connoitering and surface exploratory type.

It may be mentioned that the site was the traditional seat of *Taraka*, the female Asura chief's stronghold in the immediate vicinity of Vishwamitra's hermitage still known as *Caritravana*. Both to the east and the west are the various sites of earliest Pouranik and Asura antiquities.

Recent excavations.—In 1929 the Government of India had decided to undertake more extensive excavations in Buxar town. The idea was, however, dropped for some reasons or other.

There was, it appears, some local opposition to the excavations made by Banerjee Shastri and later by the Government of India and the excavation had to be stopped.

Recently in 1964 the State Government of Bihar partially financed by the Central Government had taken up excavation at two points close to the site where Banerjee Shastri had excavated in 1927. The work commenced in January, 1964. Excavation is now proceeding.

At the first site a gold armlet, 18 silver coins in a small earthen pot, terracottas and sprinklers have been found. The silver coins bear *hijri* years of the Muslim period. On two of the coins the first *kalma* of the Muslims (*La-Allahillala, Muhammadar Rasol Lallah*) are inscribed. Some of the *hijri* years of the coins are of 1025, 1031, 1035, 1058, 1290 and 1304.

In the first trench a portion of a massive wall which is taken to be of Kushan age has also been found and it is clear that it is a portion of a running wall which has not yet been fully dug out.

In the second trench three sub-structures of the Muslim period have been discovered. Besides, glazed potteries of the Muslim period have been found in a large number from the excavation. A big storage jar of medieval period has also been noticed.

There is a somewhat local agitation against the excavations. It is held by a portion of the local population that the excavations on the bank of the Ganga river will encourage erosion and high floods will affect Buxar town. The matter is being investigated by the Public Works Department, Bihar, Patna.

The excavations, if continued, are expected to yield rich results and will probably supply important archaeological evidence of the ancient period in India.*

* It is understood the excavations had to be called off.

CHAINPUR.—Regarding Chainpur the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions as follows:—

“A village seven miles west of Bhabhua. Population (1921) 2,545. Here stands the great mausoleum of Bakhtiyar Khan, a noble monument of Sher Shah's time. Local tradition asserts that his son married a daughter of Sher Shah, but there is no record of what part Bakhtiyar Khan played in the history of the Suri kings; he must have been a personage of rank, and Chainpur was probably his *jagir*. There can be no question, however, that the tomb belongs to the Suri time, as it is the exact counterpart of the tomb of Hasan Khan Sur at Sasaram, but of larger dimensions and with a small cupola instead of a pinnacle on its dome. Government has recently undertaken the conservation of the structure and has executed repairs necessary to preserve it from decay. Similar tombs of a smaller size are found in the neighbourhood, but call for no special notice. The Jama Masjid (1668-69) is a building of no special historic or architectural interest, but is regarded with great veneration by the Muhammadans of the place. The fort at Chainpur is surrounded by a moat and defended by a stone rampart flanked with bastions; from the style of the principal gate, which is the only portion now intact, it is evident that it is a building of the time of Sher Shah or Akbar. Inside the ramparts there is a small Hindu shrine, where a piece of stone is worshipped under the title of Harshu Brahm. In his Introduction to the Popular Religion and Folklore of Northern India, Mr. Crooke says that Harshu Panre or Harshu Baba was a Kanaujia Brahman, the family priest of Raja Salivahana of Chainpur. The Raja had two queens, one of whom was jealous of the priest's influence. About this time (1527 A.D.), the priest built a fine house close to the palace, and one night the Raja and Rani saw a light from its upper storey gleaming aloft in the sky. The Rani hinted to the Raja that the priest had designs of ousting the monarch from his kingdom, so the Raja had his house demolished and resumed the lands which had been conferred on him. The enraged Brahman did *dharna*, in other words, fasted till he died at the palace gate. When they took his body for cremation to Benares, they found Harshu standing in his wooden sandals on the steps of the burning *ghat*. He informed them that he had become a Brahm or Brahman ghost. The Raja's family was destroyed except one daughter who had been kind to the Brahman in his misfortunes, and through her the family continues to this day. Harshu is now worshipped with the fire sacrifice and offerings of Brahmanical cords and sweetmeats. If any one obtains his desire through his intercession, he offers a golden Brahmanical cord and a silken waist-string; and feeds Brahmans in his name. It is said that this worship is spreading over Northern India and promises to become widely diffused (See Report, A.S. I., for 1902-03).”*

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 164-165.

According to the Census of 1951 its total population was 3,515 persons, i.e., 1,783 males and 1,732 females with 537 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 534, i.e., 485 males and 49 females*. The village is the headquarters of the Block and the police-station.

The village has a post office, lower primary schools—one for boys and the other for girls, one upper primary school and a *Gram Panchayat*.

The village is a small trading centre. It deals mainly in paddy, rice, gram, *khesari* and *masoor* which are obtained from local supplies and consumed within the district.

Melas are held twice a year on the *Navratra* day. People come here from different parts of the country. It is said that the females who possessed of evil spirits come here for deliverance by the grace of Harshu Brahm Babaji.

Chainpur also lives more in its past glory which has, however, been kept up by the Harshu Brahm cult.

Regarding more details of the Antiquarian Remains at Chainpur, a reference may be made to Dr. D. R. Patil's recently published book on "The Antiquarian Remains of Bihar"†. Bakhtiyar Khan's tomb: "About a mile west of Chainpur is a fine saracenic structure which resembles in many respects to tomb of Hassan Khan Sur at Sasaram. There is another tomb nearby which was built by Daud Khan, son of Bakhtiyar Khan for himself when Daud Khan died and was buried there. This tomb has no covering dome. Jama Masjid of this village is greatly respected by the local muslims. This mosque has an inscription bearing the date of 1668-69 A.D."

CHAND.—A village in Bhabua subdivision on the Bhabua-Chand bus route. It is the headquarters of the police-station of the same name. It deals mainly in *gur* and *ghee* which are obtained from local supply and consumed within the district.

CHARGOTIA.—Chargotia within Adhaura P.S. in Bhabua subdivision is an excellent beauty spot. There is a waterfall here in the midst of a magnificent scenery. There is a pointed rock, 5 to 6 ft. in length which is well-known for the simple minded hilly people taking the oath of their innocence. It was a place for trial by ordeal.

CHAUSA.—Regarding the village the *Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions:—

"Village in the Buxar subdivision, situated on the East Indian Railway‡ close to the east bank of the Karamnasa river four miles

* *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951), page 290.

† *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1968, pages 75-77.

‡ Now Eastern Railway.

west of Buxar town in $25^{\circ}31'N.$; and $83^{\circ}54'E.$ Population (1921) 1,896. Chausa is famous in Indian history as the scene of the defeat of Humayun by Sher Shah in June of 1539. On learning that Humayun was leading his army back from Gaur, Sher Shah collected his Afghan troops, and having thrown up entrenchments on the banks of the Karamnasa river, he opposed the further progress of the Emperor. For nearly three months, the Mughal army remained in this situation, in a state of inactivity, neither daring to storm the Afghan entrenchments nor possessing the means of crossing the Ganges. Thus cut off from Delhi, the Emperor readily accepted the overtures of peace made by Sher Shah. A treaty was drawn out, by which Humayun resigned to Sher Shah the sovereignty of Bihar and Bengal, on condition that he would no longer oppose his march nor assist his enemies. This treaty having been duly ratified, much rejoicing took place in both camps, but especially among the Mughals, who exhausted by continual alarms, and exposed to constant rain and excessive fatigue, were anxious to return to their homes. But on that night after the treacherous Afghan had sworn by the Koran not to injure the Mughals, he suddenly attacked their camp, and took them completely by surprise. Resistance was hopeless, and the whole army fled in confusion. Humayun himself escaped by swimming across the Ganges on an inflated *massak* or water-bag, which a friendly water-carrier provided; but eight thousand soldiers perished in attempting to follow him. The water-carrier, it is said, was afterwards rewarded for his loyalty by being permitted to sit for half a day on the Emperor's throne with absolute power".*

There has been since a good deal of change in the village. On a personal enquiry into the village no trace was found of the family of the *massak* at the village.

The village is in the Buxar Community Development Block. Since the functioning of the block, the villagers have been benefited to some extent by the construction of one boring, three tube-wells and five irrigational wells, etc., through the block.

The area of the village is 750.40 acres with 376 occupied houses. The population of the village according to 1961 census as supplied by the Village Level Worker is 3,204 (1,645 males and 1,559 females) and the total number of the literate persons is 387 (349 males and 38 females). The incidence of literacy seems to be very low. On an enquiry from the villagers it was ascertained that mostly the people of this village are engaged in cultivation and miscellaneous services. Details of 1961 census figures are not yet published.

The village is electrified since 1960 and about 80 houses are electrified. Very little use is made of electricity for industrial purposes.

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad, 1924*, by J. F. W. James, pages 165-166.

The village has two primary schools with 125 students and three teachers, one junior basic school with 175 students and six teachers, one high school with 90 students and six teachers. The village has one library with about 400 books on different subjects. On the average about 15 persons visit the library daily in the evening. During 1963-64, the Education Department gave 91 books to the library in shape of book grant. It may be noted that a Social Education Centre was running in the village but since 1962 the scheme to run the centre has been stopped all over the State.

The village has a health centre with one Auxiliary Health Worker and one trained *Dai*. The Medical Officer of the Buxar block visits the centre twice a week, i.e., on Thursdays and Saturdays.

The village has one Veterinary Dispensary (Class I) with one Veterinary Doctor and one Livestock Supervisor. On the average about 20 cattle are treated in the dispensary daily.

The village has insanitary conditions. Cattle are kept near the huts, but in most cases cattle and goats share the huts with the people. Scarcely there is any regular road inside the village. The lanes and pathways become muddy or even water-logged in the rainy season. No organised conservancy service exists in the village. The lanes and pathways are seldom swept. The refuse and house sweeping are deposited in or outside the huts. There are no lavatories except that some of the fairly well-to-do inhabitants use pit privies which are known as "*Sandas*".

The village has a retail market centre for trade purpose. There is one *hat* which is held on every Sunday and Thursday. The villagers of other villages also come to this village to sell or barter their wares and buy whatever they require for the ensuing week. The chief modes of conveyance for carrying goods in the *hat* are bullock carts, pack bullocks and head-load. The village has two Fair Price Shops which supply sugar and wheat to the villagers. As the village is situated on the Buxar-Chausa road, the traders do not feel any trouble in carrying commodities to the village *hat*, because two buses up and down pass through this village daily. The village has a railway station of the Eastern Railway of the same name. On the average about 50 passengers go out and come to the village daily by the buses and the trains.

On enquiry from the villagers it was ascertained that about 20 per cent of the villagers get employment in the rice mills located at Chausa and Buxar towns. Some of them are employed in Hatia Project, Ranchi.

The village has a sub-post office with one Post Master and two Postmen. On the average about 10 money orders of the value of Rs. 800 are received daily and 15 money orders of the value of

Rs. 1,300 are sent daily to different places. The village has a public call office and on the average about ten public calls are sent and received daily.

The village has a *gram panchayat*, *natak* and *kirtan mandali*, a Shiva temple, two rice, flour and oil mills, two multi-purpose co-operative societies, etc.

CHENARI.—A village 24 miles south-west of Sasaram. It is at a distance of 12 miles from the Grand Trunk Road. From Kudra, a metalled road runs to the village. It has a police-station, a post office, a Block office, and a dispensary.

The total population of the village according to the census of 1961 as given by the Block office is 2,223 persons, i.e., 1,141 males and 1,082 females with 394 households.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. The main castes are Brahman, Rajput, Kayasth, Paithan, Dhanuk, etc.

The village has a high school which was established in 1947. There are 700 students and 18 teachers. There is also a Sanskrit High School in the village. There are 80 students and three teachers. Besides there are two upper primary and two middle schools in the village. In all schools there is co-education.

The village is electrified. There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

The household industries in the village are shoe-making, *biri* and rope making. A bi-weekly *hat* is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Chenari market and the bi-weekly *hats* clear a lot of commodities brought from the villages of Kaimur Plateau, like *ghee*, jungle fruits, timber, etc. There are four *Kirtan Mandalies* in the village.

There are two libraries in the village namely, Prem Pustakalaya and Azad Hind Urdu Library. The Prem Pustakalaya was established in 1946 and the Azad Library in 1960. There are 1,000 and 800 books respectively in these libraries.

CHHATANWAR.—A village in Buxar subdivision at a distance of about six miles from Tundiganj railway station of Eastern Railway.

The total population according to the census of 1951 was 1,790, i.e., 905 males and 885 females with 130 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 157, i.e., 155 males and two females. Its area is 1,956 acres. According to the 1951 census the total number of cultivators of land who wholly or mainly owned and

their dependants was 670 and the number of cultivating labourers and their dependants was 475. Besides this about 235 persons were employed in commerce and the source of income of 410 persons was other services and miscellaneous sources.*

The main castes of the village are Brahman, Rajput, Kurmi, Goala, etc. The main occupation of the village is agriculture.

The village has a lower primary school, an upper primary school, and a middle school. There is also a statutory *gram panchayat* in the village.

CHUTIA.—Chutia is the name of a place under village Tiura-Pipradih which falls within the jurisdiction of Nauhatta Block. The place was uninhabited prior to the beginning of the stone-cutting work. The work of stone-cutting was started in 1959 by Parsava Properties limited, Pipradih and about 200 houses had to be constructed for accommodating the offices, staff, labourers and also for giving some of the houses to the shop-keepers on rent. With the opening of stone-cutting work shops began to be opened and at present there are about 30 shops.

It is a developing area. About 2,000 labourers work here daily. The labour force is composed of both tribal and non-tribal population. Tribal labourers are Cheros, Kharwars and Oraons. The tribals of neighbouring areas as well as from Palamau district are employed here. Besides the tribals labourers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes form about 60 per cent of the total labour force. The daily wage of a worker is Rs. 3.90 nP. The work of stone-cutting remains in operation for the whole year. Some of the labourers who come from distant places have been provided with quarters. A large part of the labourers come from the neighbouring villages.

Both males and females are employed and the female folk constitutes about 20 per cent of the total labour force. For the welfare of the female workers a creche has been provided where average daily attendance of children is 26.

With a view to giving medical help, a hospital with six beds (four for males and two for females) was also started by the Company. The staff of the hospital consists of two doctors, four compounders, and one dresser. The average daily attendance of patients in the hospital is 250.

There is also a library containing 500 books for the labourers and the staff. Daily news papers and periodicals are also subscribed. The library is also equipped with a radio.

* District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad 1951, pages 176-177.

For the recreation of the staff there is also a club. A canteen is also functioning here which caters the need of the labour and staff.

A middle school has also been started by the Parsava Properties Limited where the children of the labourers receive free education. At present (January, 1964) there are 130 students and five teachers.

There is a Mazdoor Union Sangh affiliated to Rohtas Quarries Mazdoor Sangh, Rohtas. All the labourers (two thousands in number) are members of the Sangh and every member pays eight annas per month as subscription.

There is a post office and a railway station. The forest road from Akbarpur to Mirzapur passes through Chutia and through it Nauhatta is connected.

The average production of stone-cutting per month is 50,000 tons which is transported to Dehri by railway.

DAHAR.—This village is situated on the Kaimur hills at a distance of 12 miles from Adhaura, the block headquarters, and 24 miles to the south from Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters. It has an area of 2,626 acres, 107 households and a population of approximately 453 persons.

The village has a lower primary school. It is the headquarters of the *gram panchayats*. The community hall, co-operative godown and two rural houses for Adivasis are still under construction. A drinking well existed before the establishment of the block and was in a dilapidated condition. It has since been repaired by the block. Another well for drinking purposes is being excavated. This is an Adivasi village.

So far as communication is concerned, it has no proper road. Two miles of *katcha* road has been constructed by the local *gram panchayat* with the aid of the block authorities which connects the village with Bhabua-Adhaura Road.

DALIPPUR.—A village in the Sadar subdivision of Shahabad district situated at a distance of seven miles south-west from Jagdishpur. It is under the jurisdiction of Jagdishpur police-station and Jagdishpur Block.

Its population according to the census of 1951 was 4,492, i.e., 2,284 males and 2,208 females. The total number of literate persons was 756, i.e., 688 males and 68 females*. According to the provisional census of 1961 its total population is 5,232, i.e., 2,575 males and 2,657 females with 943 households. The total number of literate persons is 988, i.e., 807 males and 181 females. The final village-wise figures of 1961 census are not yet published.

* District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad, 1951, page 142.

The village has a great historical past. It was settled by Dalip Singh, a Ujjainia Chief. He was one of the ancestors of Babu Kunwar Singh. Two villages namely, Jagdishpur and Dalippur were held rent-free by the Jagdishpur family for long. But the two *Mouzas* of Dalippur and Jagdishpur which were so long held *Nankar* (rent-free) were settled on rent with Babu Bhoop Narayan Singh in 1789-90 on a *zama* of Rs. 850*.

On the death of Babu Umraon Singh, Bhoop Narayan, grandson of Babu Gajraj Singh, confiscated the village of Dalippur and its dependencies together with the income from the Jagdishpur jungles, which had been decreed to Umrao Singh. Discontented at this, Sahebzada Singh, son of Umrao Singh, left Jagdishpur, leaving his two elder sons, Kunwar Singh and Dayal Singh with one Umrao Sahu, a money-lender of Dalippur, and vowed never to return to Jagdishpur in the life-time of Bhoop Narayan*. Babu Kunwar Singh and Babu Dayal Singh were thus brought up at Dalippur till they were of the age of 18 and 16 years respectively. They went back to Jagdishpur when their father Babu Sahebzada Singh came back to Jagdishpur to claim his estate. The family remained at Jagdishpur during the regime of Babu Sahebzada Singh.

On the death of Sahebzada Singh and the litigation with his elder brother,* Dayal Singh along with his mother, Panchratan Kunwar and the younger brothers Rajpati Singh and Amar Singh, left the ancestral residence at Jagdishpur and moved over to Dalippur. Dayal Singh died before the Movement of 1857-59. The house at Dalippur which gave shelter to the female members of the family during the Movement and which was attacked by Eyre, is still extant and bears the marks of his vandalism in damaging and burning it†.

While at Dalippur, Babu Rajpati Singh and Amar Singh built *Garhs* at Kakila and at Mithaha respectively. After remaining at Dalippur for several years they shifted to newly built *Garhs*.

During the Mutiny of 1857 Reet Bhajan Singh (Ripu Bhajan Singh), Guman Bhajan Singh and Aribhajan Singh were the masters of Dalippur who were the sons of Babu Dayal Singh, second brother of Babu Kunwar Singh.

The *garh* of Dalippur was attacked and burnt by Lt. Jackson under the command of Vincent Eyre. The descendants of Dayal Singh are still living in this *Garh*.

Dalippur was again made a stronghold by the revolutionaries during the period of Amar Singh. On hearing in the morning of

* *Biography of Kunwar Singh and Amar Singh*, by K. K. Dutta, published by K. P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna (1957), page 12.

† *Ibid*, page 25.

the 11th May that the party of insurgents was strongly entrenched at Dalippur and also at Jitawa Sir E. Lugard marched in that direction and a serious battle was fought near the *garh*.

The village has three lower primary schools, two upper primary, one *madrassa* and one high school. There are about 500 students in the high school. There is also an *Adarsh Pustakalaya* in the village. It was established in 1950 and there are about 300 books on different subjects. There is also a dance, drama and music society in the village.

The village is electrified and there are about five flour mills and one post office. There are about 20 grain shops, one Ganja shop, one liquor shop and one toddy shop in the village.

The village has a mixed population consisting of ex-zamindars, agriculturists, businessmen and service holders, but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Rajput, Brahman, Kurmi, Teli, Bania, Goala, Mohammadan, Kahar, etc. The village has a number of aristocratic Rajput families related to Kunwar Singh.

There is a *Gram Panchayat* in the village. The houses are mostly mud-built with straw roofing. There are about eight temples including *Thakurbaris*, *Devi Asthans* and mosques.

This village now remains more in the past and has not been progressing as it should. Many of the old aristocratic families are practically at their last lap.

DARANGAR.—This village is at a distance of seven miles from Nauhatta, the Block headquarters. Its population according to 1961 census, as supplied by the Block office is 3,012, i.e., 1,512 males and 1,500 females. There are 698 occupied houses.

This village has an upper primary school in which there are 300 students and seven teachers. There is a library named Gyan Pitha which was established in 1951. There are 699 books in it. The Block constructed 27 minor irrigation wells, 70 culverts, one building for upper primary school and repaired four drinking wells.

The main produces of the village are paddy, maize, sugarcane and groundnut.

The village is electrified and there is one flour mill. There is a *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

The Block office distributed three sewing machines and there are three sugarcane co-operative societies in the village.

DEHRI TOWN INCLUDING DALMIANAGAR.—Dehri in the Sasaram subdivision is situated on the west bank of the river Sone at 24°55'N and 84°11'E. Dehri-Dalmianagar may be considered as a composite town divided by the Eastern Railway Line into two parts, viz., Dehri to the south of the railway line and Dalmianagar to its north. The Grand Trunk Road passes through the town.

About Dehri the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions:—

“DEHRI.—Village in the Sasaram subdivision, situated on the west bank of the Son, in 24°55'N. and 84°11'E. Population (1921) 3,245. It has a station on the Grand Chord Line of the East Indian* Railway and is a trade centre of some local importance. The Grand Trunk Road here crosses the broad sandy bed of the Son on a stone causeway 2½ miles long; and just below this the river is spanned by a vast railway bridge. It is made of iron girders laid on stone-built pillars and comprises 93 spans of a hundred feet each, its total length over abutments being 10,052 feet. This bridge is not only the longest in India†, but next to the Tay Bridge (10,527 feet) is believed to be the longest in the world. It was opened in February 1900, exactly three years from the date on which the work was commenced. The chief importance of Dehri is due to the fact that it is the site of the head works of the Son Canals, where the main western canal branches off from the anicut thrown across the main channel of the river. Dehri also contains workshops designed to construct and maintain the various works in stone, wood and iron which are scattered over the canal system. They are substantial stone buildings with iron roofs, and embrace a foundry, saw-mill, blacksmith's shop, fitting shop and a boat-yard‡.”

This was the condition prior to 1924. With the passage of time, Dehri-on-Sone grew in importance due to the establishment of a number of industrial undertakings at Dehri and the adjoining area which came to be known as Dalmianagar. What was previously a village was enumerated as a town in the census of 1941** for the first time and has developed into a township with clear indications of further expansion. Large areas in some of the adjoining villages have been acquired and added to Dehri from time to time to the north adjacent to the railway station for the siting of the various industries under the Rohtas Industries group. After a few years of the starting of the industries the area came to be known as Dalmianagar as the Rohtas Industries group are associated with the Dalmia family. There was a move on behalf of the Dalmia Industries to have the name of the railway station changed from Dehri-on-Sone to Dalmianagar. There were objections and the matter was dropped. The Dalmia group of industries (Rohtas Industries) has introduced thousands of population and brought in many amenities.

Government have started a number of offices here such as Block Development Office, Package Office, Public Works Department Offices, Central Excise Offices, Branch of the State Bank of India,

* Now Eastern Railway.

† The bridge has lost its distinction now to Mahananda bridge in Orissa.

‡ *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 166.

** *District Census Hand-Book* (1951), Shahabad, page 8.

Post and Telegraph Offices, Telephone Exchange, establishment of a sub-district of police administration, etc. It has been felt that the Grand Trunk Road should have a bridge here over the river Sone, to facilitate road communication direct from Calcutta to Delhi. For this purpose an office of the Public Works Department for the construction of the bridge has been established at Dehri-on-Sone. The work of this road-bridge was started on 5th December, 1962 with a revised estimate of Rs. 2,30,72,000 and was completed by the end of 1965. The total length of the bridge is to be 10,044 feet and the width to be 23 feet with two feet of foot-path on each side. There are to be two abutments and 92 pillars, the distance between the consecutive pillars being 108 feet (Centre to Centre). By the completion of this bridge through inter-State traffic will be possible on this road without any diversion *via* Arrah-Sasaram Road. This will help tourism and make Dehri more prominent on the road map of India.

As mentioned Dehri-Dalmianagar was for the first time treated as a town in the census of 1941. A Notified Area Committee was formed for Dehri-Dalmianagar under Government notification nos. 207 and 208, dated the 23rd May, 1941. The area of the Notified Area Committee extends over 3.56 square miles and contains 3,613 holdings. It is bounded on the north by village Sidhauri, on the south by the river Sone and Baslipur, on the east by the river Sone and on the west by village Sakhara. The committee has 13 members. It functions under the administrative control of the Subdivisional Officer of Sasaram who is its *ex-officio* Chairman.

The town though situated on the bank of the river Sone is at a sufficiently high level to prevent the flood waters of the river from entering it. There is an anicut on the Sone from which canals radiate northwards. The Sone Canals practically ruin the agricultural economy of a large part of the district.

According to the census of 1941 the population of the town was 8,281 persons, in 1951 it was 24,496 persons; in 1961 the population was 38,092 persons, a rise of only 55 per cent over the population of 1951. These figures show that the pace of industrialisation which started in 1933 was very rapid during the decade 1941-51, but in the decade 1951-61 the pace of further industrialization has not been so rapid.

According to the 1961* Census the total population as already mentioned was 38,092 persons of which 22,723 were males and 15,369 were females. Of these the total number of bread-earners was 14,563 persons consisting of 13,902 males and 661 females. The total number of workers employed in the industries of the town was 13,506 of whom 13,021 were males and 485 females. The number

* Census of India 1961, Volume IV, Bihar, Part II-A, General Population Tables, pages 282 and 418-419.

of cultivators was 226 out of which 50 were agricultural labourers, 157 maintained themselves through live-stock, fisheries, etc., and 624 were engaged in household industries.

The Notified Area Committee and the factories at Dalmianagar are maintaining 7.73 miles of *pucca* roads in addition to a few *kutchha* roads. The length of the *katcha* and *pucca* drains is 40,810 feet and 10,322 feet respectively. Some of the roads and drains are in a neglected condition. The committee has provided some wells and tube-wells for water-supply while the factories supply their employees with electricity. The streets are electrified.

The following industries are in existence at Dalmianagar:— Sugar, Cement, Paper and Board, Chemicals, Sulphuric Acid, Alums. Asbestos Cement, Vanaspati, Vulcanised Fibres, and Pulp and Paper. The details of these industries have been given in the chapter on 'Industries'. Besides these there is a Central Engineering Workshop with an electric furnace. There is a power house also which for long supplied power to the State Government to operate tube-wells for irrigation purposes and for domestic uses in the urban areas of Dehri-on-Sone, Sasaram and Aurangabad (Gaya). But now power is taken from Damodar Valley Corporation Power Station causing a decrease in the consumption of electricity from the local power house.

There are two higher secondary schools in the town, one at Dehri and the other at Dalmianagar. There are two girls' high schools, one at Dalmianagar and the other at Dehri and a Government-sponsored technical school. The Labour Welfare Centre at Dalmianagar runs training courses in sewing, embroidery, cutting and tailoring for girls.

There are two libraries with a poor readership, one maintained by the Labour Welfare Centre, Dalmianagar and the other at Dehri maintained by the Notified Area Committee.

There are three hospitals in the town, viz., (i) Dehri-on-Sone State Dispensary, (ii) The Company's Hospital, and (iii) a hospital maintained by the Employees' State Insurance Scheme functioning since March, 1960. The details of the medical services will be found in the chapter on 'Medical and Public Health Services'.

There is one T. B. Hospital privately managed at Dehri and another at village Shankerpur, Jagjivan Sanatorium, about four miles from Dehri. Both of them are liberally helped by the Government.

The daily average of the travelling persons using the Dehri-on-Sone Railway Station is nearly 3,000 and those using the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway at Dehri and Dehri City Railway Station number about 1,500. Dehri is the headquarters of the Dehri-Rohtas

Light Railway. This railway route opens up the quarries and forests and is of increasing importance. The demand for goods traffic is far above what the railway can cater as reported.

There are 15 bus routes from and through Dehri town. There are 38 bus services plying up and down thus making a total of 76 services. The buses were found chronically overloaded and this suggests there could be many more bus services. About 3,000 persons use the buses daily (May, 1964).

In 1963, besides the buses there were 3,012 cycles, 600 cycle-rickshaws and six *tamtams* for passenger traffic and there were 1,425 bullock carts for the carriage of light goods for short distances. For the carriage of heavy goods for long distances trucks available from outside Dehri are used. A large number of carrier trucks pass through Dehri everyday. A daily average of some three thousand tonnes of goods arrive at and are despatched from Dehri-on-Sone Railway Station including Dalmianagar siding of the Eastern Railway. The turn-over of goods at the Dehri Railway Station of the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway is on the average 2,600 tonnes per day. Both the stations have a very busy time.

The main commodities booked from Dehri-on-Sone Railway Station and Dalmianagar siding of the Eastern Railway are cement and lime to Assam and West Bengal, paper to Bombay, Madras, Madhya Pradesh; asbestos products to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Assam; chemical products, etc., to Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. All these commodities along with sugar, hydrogenated oil, etc., are sent to different places throughout Bihar.

The main commodities received are coal from Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields; bamboos and timber from Palamau district (Bihar); sugarcane from the forests and hills of the Shahabad district; gypsum from Rajasthan; waste paper from Calcutta, Madhya Pradesh and Madras; laterite from Palamau (Bihar) and Madhya Pradesh; bauxite from Madhya Pradesh; groundnut and til oil, cotton seed oil from Madhya Pradesh, flue dust from Dhanbad (Bihar) and West Bengal; iron and steel goods from Jamshedpur and Burnpur (West Bengal); machinery from Calcutta; cloth from Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kanpur and Howrah; medicine from Calcutta and Bombay; oil-cake from Bhagalpur (Bihar), Kanpur and Allahabad; manures from Sindri and Tatanagar; sabai grass from the Punjab and Purnea and Santal Parganas districts of Bihar; livestock from the Punjab and Calcutta; kerosene oil, diesel oil and mobil oil from Budge Budge and mustard oil from Uttar Pradesh.

There is a four storeyed air-conditioned modern building belonging to Rohtas Industries. It serves the purpose of the general office and houses the State Bank of India, the Universal Bank of India

Limited and a Canteen also. A two storeyed building of the Rohtas Industries with beautiful and spacious lawns serves as a guest house. The office buildings of the Rohtas Industries and their other buildings and colony are modern and have the usual amenities.

Dalmianagar has two premier clubs namely the Dalmianagar and the Rohtas Club. Besides, there is a Rotary Club also. There are two football clubs in this township, one at Dehri and the other at Dalmianagar.

The companies have provided 1,600 residential houses, two dormitories with 40 rooms each and one dormitory with 56 seats. The residents get water and electricity free. The colony is provided with underground drainage and sewerage system with a treatment plant. The foul water of this area is drained into the river Sone. There is one Jain temple in the area.

Extending over an area of 800 acres the township of Dalmianagar is half occupied by the factories, and of the remaining half 60 per cent by residential houses and other buildings and 40 per cent by lawns, parks and playgrounds. There is a network of well-planned concrete roads, drainage and sewerage system.

Besides the major industries mentioned above, some small-scale and cottage industries exist in Dehri-Dalminagar. There are 16 lime works, five repairing workshops, two printing presses, one chemical industry (soap manufacture) and one saw mill besides a large number of smaller units in the town.

The Labour Welfare Centre at Dalmianagar provides a library, reading room and a sewing class (already dealt with). It provides for indoor and outdoor games. It has a training-cum-production centre (both for males and females) having a six months' course.

Before the sponsoring of the industries the population of Dehri village was very small and it had only petty shops which catered for the needs of the local villagers. With the industries the village grew not only in area but also in its population with the result that a large number of shops cropped up. Dehri is now a good shopping centre. In Dalmianagar there are seven wholesalers, 16 retailers, two hullers, four oil *ghanis* and 2 *atta chakkies*. In Dehri there are eleven wholesalers, 25 retailers, two hullers, six oil *ghanis*, six *atta chakkies*, two cold storage plants and seven cement stockists. In Dalmianagar annually 15,000 quintals of rice and 500 quintals of gram are locally obtained and consumed; 1,800 quintals of local and foreign wheat are also consumed locally; 600 quintals of pulses and 1,000 quintals of mustard oil obtained from Sasaram and local markets are also consumed locally (April, 1964).

At Dehri annually 37,000 quintals of rice obtained locally are exported to Banjari and Rohtas and also locally consumed; 4,000 quintals of gram obtained from Sasaram, Bhabua and Kudra; 7,200

quintals of *khesari* and 4,000 quintals of *masoor* obtained from Gaya, Mohania, Kudra and Bhabua; 4,000 quintals of pulses obtained from Gaya, Kanpur, Varanasi and Sasaram are consumed locally. A local supply of 57,000 quintals of potato is despatched to Asansol, Jamshedpur and Burdwan. Besides these, 12,000 quintals of green vegetables are obtained and consumed locally. Besides the regular shops, *hats* are held in the town on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays*. The local market has a good supply of vegetables, fish, meat, eggs and birds for daily consumption. Previously there used to be plenty of cheap fish as most of the catch of Sone river used to be sold locally. Now there is a scarcity of fish owing to very large demand and export. Sone fish is proverbially very tasty.

Due to the development of industries at Dalmianagar and its vicinity, the discovery of pyrites mines at Amjhore (at a distance of about 20 miles from Dehri), the construction of the anicut at Indrapuri about five miles from the town, the construction of a road bridge over the river Sone and the scenery round about have been attracting tourists, Indian and foreign and so the town could be well developed as a tourist centre. But very little facility for their stay has been provided there, except that the factories at Dalmianagar have a rest house and there is one Inspection Bungalow where they could be permitted to stay. There are no standard hotels where they might put up. The accommodation facilities for the middle-classes are very poor and costly.

As the town is situated in a healthy locality, people specially from Calcutta used to come in large number for a change to the town during the holidays. Sone water is said to be very digestive. Many of them have their own bungalows along the bank of the river Sone. But as the town has become very congested and the atmosphere smoggy its value as a place of health resort has declined. Dehri is situated on the Grand Trunk Road and thousands of motorists pass through Dehri. At present motor cars are taken over the Sone bridge by the Railway. When the road bridge is complete there will be a great facility for the motorists. Dehri is an ideal place for the fixing up of a tourists' or an Automobile Association's motel. There could also be a youth hostel. The area near the present anicut with forests of old Sisoo and teak trees is an ideal picnic spot. The historical relics nearabout and Rohtasgarh described separately could be popularised among the tourists.

DEO BARUNARAK.—Regarding this place the *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions as follows:—

"A village in the headquarters subdivision, six miles north-east of Mahadeopur and 27 miles south-west of Arrah, containing two temples of considerable age. In front of the larger one stand four

* *Market Directory, Shahabad, 1960*, issued by Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing, Bihar, Patna.

pillars of the Gupta style, on one of which is an inscription of Jivita Gupta (740 A.D.) of the later Gupta dynasty, which records the dedication of the temple to Barunarak. The shrine, although dedicated to the sun, now contains an image of Vishnu flanked by two small statues of the sun-god. The second temple also has an old pedestal of a statue of Surya, and evidently belongs to the same time; both are built of brick with very little ornamentation and are in fair preservation, though the spires are broken. Another interesting pillar of the Gupta period stands close to the temples. Its capital is square, and has on its four sides figures of Indra, Yama, Baruna and Kubera, the presiding deities of the east, south, west and north. Around the circular shaft are eight rather indistinct figures, which are evidently representations of the planets, as Rahu can be recognized among them (*see Report, A.S.B.C., for 1903-04.*)*

There have not been much change to what has been stated. The condition of the monuments has much deteriorated.

The nearest railway stations are Piro and Bikramganj on the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway. From Piro it is about 18 miles south-east under Tarari police-station and Tarari Block. It is difficult to reach this place during rains as a *kutcha* road runs both from Piro and Bikramganj. Only conveyance available are *ekkas*, bicycles and bullock carts. Occasionally block jeeps also go to the village but only during fair weather.

This village has been mentioned in the District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad (1951) as 'Deo'. According to 1951 census, it is in Bikramganj police-station bearing 681 thana number. The total area of the village is 1,881 having 84 occupied houses. The total population is 1,427 souls (744 males and 683 females) out of which 197 persons (160 males and 37 females) have been enumerated as literate†.

Regarding the antiquarian remains at this village first noticed by Buchanan and then visited by Cunningham, Garrick and Bloch, a fuller description has been given by Dr. D. R. Patil‡. Patil has described the group of sun temples and particularly the moon temple at some details. A large number of Saiva deities have been noticed and an inscription which have not been investigated into. An isolated monolithic column with ornamentation statuette and the worn out representations of the *Ashta-Dikpalas* (guardians of the eight quarters) locally called as Nava-grahas lead to the theory that the erection of the monolith was constructed with the original temple of sun-god. Dr. Patil is of the view:—"It seems the ruins had undergone in all three successive phases of construction and

* District Gazetteer of Shahabad (1924), page 167.

† District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad (1951), page 194.

‡ The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963, pages 99-103.

repairs, viz., (a) when the original temple of the sun-god was constructed sometime in the early Gupta period as is indicated by the later Gupta inscription already referred to. This should, more properly, be expected to have been built nearby the tank; for the main temple on the terrace is rather too far away and is somewhat obliquely situated in relation to the tank and may not thus be the original site of the Sun temple. It is curious that a carved door-frame which forms an essential part of Gupta temples has not been noticed in the existing ruins. Further the present position of the monolithic column is not at all appropriately related to the main temple.

(b) When the Sun temple was either destroyed or was already in ruins and its remains, such as the four ornamented pillars and the broken carved pedestal, were removed and used in the construction of the main or Chaturbhuja Vishnu temple and the pedestal placed in the temple no. (ii) above. This can be, however, more certainly stated only when the positions, whether they are *in situ* or not, of the pillars and the pedestal are more carefully examined on spot.

(c) When all the Saiva temples were erected at the place, some time after the Vaishnava temple was raised. The walled enclosure also may have been raised simultaneously. It is noteworthy that, except the enshrined image of Chaturbhuja Vishnu in the largest or main temple, majority of the sculptures in the ruins represent Saiva deities and it is the Siva linga in temple no. (v) above that has been the chief object of worship so far."

DEO MARKANDEYA.—Dr. Hamilton Buchanan had visited this village during his tours of Shahabad district in 1812-13 and has left an account of the same in his memoirs.

Regarding the village, the *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions as follows:—

"At Deo Markandeya, a village in the Sasaram subdivision, five miles north of Nasriganj, 37 miles to the south of Arrah and a few miles west of the Son near the Sasaram-Arrah road, there are three temples and three isolated lingas standing on a large mound covered with bricks. The principal one enshrines statues of Vishnu and Surya, of very crude fabric and probably of a late period. The second temple merely has an image of Surya; and the third, which is still a place of religious worship, has a linga with four heads (*Chaumukhi Mahadeo*). The inhabitants quote a Sanskrit verse which says that the main temple was built in Bikrama Sambat 120 (A.D. 63) by Gobhavini, the queen of Raja Phulchand Chero; and General Cunningham assigns the temples to the rule of the Cheros

* *Journal of Francis Buchanan kept during the survey of the district of Shahabad in 1812-1813*, pages 22-24; Patna, 1926.

over Shahabad in the sixth or seventh century. Later investigation shows, however, that they are not very old (see Reports, A. S.-I., Vol. XIX, 1885, and Report, A.S.B.C., for 1903-04).”*

The name of the village is said to have been derived from a saint Deo Markandeya who is supposed to have lived in about the middle of *Kaliyuga* and had erected the temple of Deo Markandeya. It may also be noted that the temple of Markandeya has given the name of the village as distinguished from another village Deo Barunarak.

The principal archaeological remains of this place are the ruins of two Brahmanical temples and an old tank called *Suraj Pokhara*. The oldest of the temples called *Deo Markandeya Ka Shivalaya* was already in ruins when Garrick visited the place in 1881. There is a smaller temple known as *Suraj Shivalaya* or the Sun temple. Sun temples are rather rare in Bihar. There are remains of some cells.

Dr. D. R. Patil in his *Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* has given a fuller description of the remains. He concludes:—“When Buchanan visited the place he saw on this mound, (i) the main temple in its centre, (ii) a very small Siva temple in its south-western corner, with only part of its walls standing and (iii) three or four Lingas, one of which is adorned with four heads.” Cunningham says nothing of the Siva temple and the lingas; for, of the two temples, he noticed, the smaller one was seen by him in “a complete ruin”. Garrick places this smaller temple “towards the south-western corner of the mound” and calls it the Sun temple which he says “is obviously a much later structure” and had already lost its roof at the time. This would mean that after Buchanan’s visit the Sun temple had taken the place of the earlier Saiva shrine, some of the ruins of which may have found their way to the Saiva temples nearby referred to below.

“In Buchanan’s time the upper part of the main temple had fallen, the porch in its front having also lost its roof. Inside the shrine was a ‘pretty large’ pedestal, supporting small images of Surya, Ganesa, etc., though it was originally meant for some larger image which no longer existed in the shrine. Cunningham later examined the shrine floor carefully and finding it to be of a later date removed the debris and discovered a larger figure of Vishnu, 3’ 5” in height, which he thought was the original image enshrined in the temple. On the dedicatory block of the lintel of the door-frame of the shrine is a representation of some deity which neither Buchanan nor Cunningham could identify. Garrick carried out some excavation on the mound; but it does not add much of information, except that he discovered a highly sculptured gateway belonging to the ancient temple. His exploration gives no clue as to the original deity to which the temple was dedicated; though he

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 167.

recounts a local story how the small image of the Sun-god was discovered by the villagers in the debris of the main temple and was installed for worship in the smaller temple nearby. It is, therefore, a moot point whether the earliest or original temple here was that of the Sun-god or was a Saiva or Vaishnava shrine; and the problem can be solved satisfactorily only after a complete exploration of the mound and its ruins. One thing appears to be certain that there is much that is common between Deo Barunarak and Deo Markandeya ruin which are separated from each other by a distance of hardly 20 miles. It is significant that at Deo Barunarak too we have a Vishnu image occupying the main shrine which was originally dedicated to the Sun-god and there is reason to believe that Deo Markandeya also the main shrine was originally dedicated to the Sun-god and was later converted to the worship of Vishnu."*

DHANSOI.—A large village in Buxar subdivision on Buxar-Itarhi bus route. A large quantity of paddy, rice, gram and other grain is exported from this village to Buxar. There are a number of wholesalers and retailers at the village. *Hats* are held at the village on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

DUMRAON RAJ.—This Raj family members are "Parmar" Rajputs and trace their pedigree to Raja Vikramaditya who was an important ruler of India, 56 years before the Christian era with the capital of his kingdom in Ujjain in the province of Malwa. The Bikrami Sambat of the Hindus is being reckoned from his time of rule and is also therefore named accordingly. There have been 69 (sixty-nine) ruler ancestors of Ujjain in Malwa. It is because of this blood and historical relation that the Dumraon Raj family are popularly known as "Ujjain Rajputs".

The founder of the family in the district of Shahabad was one Santana Shahi who is said to have settled in village Karur while returning from Gaya where he had gone to offer *Pindas* in 1320 A.D. It appears from *Tawarikh Ujjania* that Santana Shahi never returned to Ujjain in Malwa and acquired extensive properties in this district along with the increase in the membership of his family and dependants. The seats of his capital were therefore changed from time to time from one place to another like Dawan, Bihta, Jagdishpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Mathila and the like according to necessity with the expansion of family and the Raj properties. Traces and remains—in ruins of course—of their fortresses and palaces are still available in all these places and the local people of even today tell their tales coming down from mouth to mouth. It was in 1745 when Raja Horil Singh shifted the headquarters of his capital from Naya Bhojpur to Dumraon which continues to be so till today. There is still the great old fort in which the Maharajas used to live and their offices and treasuries were housed.

* *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963, pages 112-113.

With the increase in the various branches of the successors of Santana Shahi, natural rivalries had developed and during the war between Sher Shah and Humayun in 1534–1540, Gajpati or Gajan Shahi and Dalpat Shahi, two rival princes of the family joined opposite sides, and each succeeded in obtaining rewards for their services in the shape of extensive Jagirs and the recognition of their position as Raja and Commander and thereby they gained further prominence in the local areas. During the reign of Akbar, Gajpati Shahi and his brother Bairisal defied the Moghal armies for several years. But the rising of Dalpat Shahi ended in his defeat and imprisonment for some time. On release from imprisonment, he continued in rebellion under Jahangeer until his capital was sacked by the Moghals. Raja Narain Mal who succeeded in 1607 was the sole proprietor of Bhojpur and Jagdishpur till 1621. He was recognized as "Raja Mal Mansabdar" and he could keep 7,000 troops at his command. On his death the estate passed to his brother Rudra Pratap Narain Singh in the absence of any direct male descendant and he had removed the seat of his family to Naya Bhojpur which continued to be so till 1745 when it was shifted to Dumraon as already indicated above. Naya Bhojpur was situated on the bank of the Ganga. It was obviously due to the cutting of the river bank on the southern side and consequently threatening the submergence of the then fortress at Naya Bhojpur known as "Naurattan" garh that the seat was shifted further south to Dumraon.

Raja Horil Singh with his seat in Dumraon was succeeded in 1746 by Raja Chhatradhari Singh and the next great chief of the Dumraon family was Raja Bikramjit Singh, who was recognized as Raja by the Emperor Shah Alam in 1771. On the death of Raja Bikramjit Singh in 1816, his son Jai Prakash Singh succeeded to the *gaddi* of Dumraon Raj and the formal title of Maharaja Bahadur was conferred upon him by the British rulers of India evidently for his great and valuable public services. The great and valuable public services of the heads of the Dumraon House received due recognition both from Mohamedan and British rulers from time to time in the shape of position and property and the prerogatives and titles enjoyed by the family during the Mohamedan period were also confirmed by the British rulers on their occupation of Bihar. Apart from other contributions towards public welfare, the temple of Sri Beharijee at the Dumraon Garh built about the year 1835 owes its creation to him. On the death of Maharaja Bahadur Jai Prakash Singh, the Dumraon Raj estates passed on to his grand son the son having predeceased—Shri Janki Prasad Singh who died very young in 1843 leaving no male issue. He was, therefore, succeeded by his own uncle and guardian—being the nearest collateral, Shri Maheshwar Baksh Singh. A formal title of Maharaja Bahadur was conferred on him too on the fulfilment of the usual terms and conditions as second in rank among the Maharajas of Patna division. In 1872 he was formally recognized as holding the higher title of

Maharaja which he had in fact enjoyed for 28 years before it was officially conferred on him. He was created a K.C.S.I. shortly before his death in November 1881 and was succeeded by his only son, Radha Prasad Singh who had already received the title of Raja (during the life-time of the father) for his valuable services during the famine of 1873-74 and the title of Maharaja Bahadur was conferred on him in 1882 on the main ground of his being the head of the Rajputs in Shahabad. So also on the precedence of the Zamindars of Bettiah, Hathwa and Darbhanga who possessed the title of Maharaja Bahadur, he was given this title not inferior to that of those noblemen. Maharaja Radha Prasad Singh was subsequently made K.C.I.E. He died in 1894 without leaving any male issue but leaving his widow, Beni Prasad Kuari and a daughter who had already been married to His Highness Maharaja Venkat Raman Singh of Rewah. Late His Highness Maharaja Gulab Singh was the son of Maharaja Venkat Raman from the daughter of Maharaja Radha Prasad Singh of Dumraon. Maharaja Gulab Singh was compelled to abdicate his throne in favour of his son by the British rulers for his active association and support to the congress movement of independence and he died recently while in exile in Bombay.

On the death of Maharaja Radha Prasad Singh the Dumraon Raj was placed under the management of Court of Wards but soon after Maharani Beni Prasad Kuari took it back and managed it very well till her death in 1907.

On the death of Maharani Beni Prasad Kuari the Raj was involved in a prolonged litigation. A boy of Jagdishpur as Jang Bahadur Singh was given out to have been adopted by the said Maharani Beni Prasad Kuari, on the other hand there was the claim of Sri Kesho Prasad Singh being the nearest collateral (*Gotia*) of late Maharaja Radha Prasad Singh and living in a portion of the same palace in which Maharaja himself was living. As a result of the said litigation and adoption of Jang Bahadur Singh (then being minor) the Dumraon Raj was again placed under the Court of Wards. Sri Kesho Prasad Singh was driven to institute a title suit in the Sub-Judge's Court, Arrah to press his claim. A large number of supporters gathered round him and he eventually succeeded in obtaining a decree in 1911 nullifying the adoption of Jang Bahadur Singh and declaring the title in favour of Babu Kesho Prasad Singh and giving him the delivery of possession of the Dumraon Raj from the Court of Wards which filed an appeal in the Calcutta High Court because there was then no High Court of Judicature at Patna. The case was eventually compromised in 1913-14 and compromise decree was passed by the Calcutta High Court declaring the rightful title of Sri Kesho Prasad Singh and nullifying the adoption of Jang Bahadur Singh. There was thus a suspension of litigation till about 1925-26 when the said Sri Jang

Bahadur Singh attained his majority and filed afresh a title suit, in the original jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court, praying for the setting aside of the said compromise decree and restoring the possession of Dumraon Raj to him. He lost this case and so also the first and second appeals in the Calcutta High Court and Privy Council respectively. The second appeal in the Privy Council was decided in 1949.

In the meantime Sri Kesho Prasad Singh was formally honoured with the title of Maharaja Bahadur and Knighthood (Kt. C. B. E.) in quick succession soon after the original suit decree in 1911 and his getting possession of the Dumraon Raj. He was for sometime on the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor of Bihar. When he died in 1933 leaving his widow Maharani, two sons and five daughters he was succeeded to the *Gaddi* of Dumraon Raj by his eldest son Maharaja Bahadur Rama Ran Vijai Prasad Singh. He was a graduate of the Mayo College of Princes at Ajmer. He was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly for some time during the British rule. On the death of Maharaja Rama Ran Vijai Prasad Singh leaving two sons and two daughters in 1949 the succession of the *Gaddi* of Dumraon Raj naturally went to his eldest son Maharaja Kamal Singh. He was twice elected as a member of the House of People—once in the general election of 1952 and the other in 1957 by defeating the Congress and other candidates in thumping majority. It is during the regime of Maharaja Kamal Singh that the intermediary interests (Zamindaris and the like) were abolished by the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 and the possession of the Zamindari villages of Dumraon Raj were handed to the State of Bihar in June, 1952. Maharaja Kamal Singh has set an example by being an industrialist. He has sponsored a Lantern factory, a mechanized modern agricultural farm and a cold storage at Dumraon.

The properties of the Dumraon Raj formerly extended over mainly in Shahabad, Patna, Saran and Muzaffarpur districts in Bihar and in Ballia, Ghazipur, Banaras and Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh province. The size and volume of the Dumraon Raj properties increased mostly during the regime of Maharaja Maheswar Baksh Singh. After him an extensive Zamindari property in Gaya district was purchased by Maharaja Rama Ran Vijai Prasad Singh in 1942 from the European proprietors yielding a gross income of over two lakhs as rent, etc. This newly acquired property was subsequently allotted for the maintenance of the junior members of the family as indicated above. The annual rent roll of Dumraon Raj both in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was about 21 lakhs on the eve of the Zamindari Abolition Law in 1951.

Dumraon Raj has sponsored a number of religious and charitable institutions. Dumraon town and the suburbs are full of beautiful temples and tanks with separate *pucca* Ghats for men and

women. The largest and by far the most important one is the temple of "Shri Bihariji" (Lord Krishna with Radhika Rani) built about 1840 by Maharaja Jai Prakash Singh and situated within the *Garh* compound. This temple is a great attraction for people from far and near. There are a number of other temples and charitable trusts in their connection at Dumraon and Varanasi.

The Raj has also sponsored and is maintaining a general hospital at Dumraon, another at Bikramganj, a veterinary dispensary at Dumraon, a higher secondary school, a girls' high and a middle school and a Sanskrit high school at Dumraon. The Raj has sponsored and has made liberal endowments to the Maharaja College at Arrah. The last few institutions were sponsored by the young Maharaja Kamal Singh.

Regarding the maintenance the absence of written trusts was, for the first time, realised by Maharaja Ram Ran Vijay Prasad Singh who created four separate trusts, one for religious institutions and three for hospitals, in 1948 and 1949 and allotted the income from a large number of villages to meet the usual annual expenditure on these institutions as used to be previously provided in the Raj Budgets. These institutions are being managed by the present Maharaja Sri Kamal Singh.

Dumraon hospital at Dumraon has recently been provided with an X-Ray Plant and an equipped clinical laboratory and an Operation Theatre. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of India performed the opening ceremony of the X-Ray building on the 3rd October, 1959. The Raj school at Dumraon has recently been equipped with a Science laboratory, a hostel and a pavilion. Maharaja Kamal Singh has set up a number of charitable institutions himself and made lavish donations of land, buildings and money to various useful institutions, like schools, colleges, hospitals, etc., in Shahabad and Ballia districts managed by other agencies. Very recently he has created a Trust known as "Dumraon Raj Charitable Trust" dedicating thereto the entire Raj Garh and a large area of land mainly for helping educational institutions and needy students. He is a keen florist and grows good roses.

DUMRAON TOWN.—Dumraon town in Buxar subdivision is situated on the main line of the Eastern Railway. The last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions:—"Town and municipality in the Buxar subdivision situated on the East Indian Railway, 400 miles from Calcutta, in 25°33'N. and 84°9'E. Population 14,132. The town, which contains a charitable dispensary, veterinary dispensary and high English school, is best known in connection with the Dumraon Raj, to which family it has given its name. The principal buildings are the palace and pavilion of the Raj, both excellent examples of modern Hindu architecture. The former residence of the family is said to have been destroyed by Mir Kasim Ali. Within the palace grounds stands a temple dedicated to Sri Bihariji, where

great religious festivals are celebrated on the birth-days of Ram and Krishna, to which *Pandits* are invited from all parts of India."* Dumraon town is intimately associated with the Dumraon Raj family which has been separately covered.

Dumraon town is different now (1964). The East Indian Railway is known as the Eastern Railway. The table below will show the variation of the population from 1901 to 1961†:—

	Year.	Persons.	Male.	Female.
1901		17,236	8,059	9,177
1911		15,042	7,402	7,640
1921		14,132	7,137	6,995
1931		14,421	7,602	6,819
1941		16,316	8,473	7,843
1951		16,605	8,486	8,119
1961	.. .	19,662	10,313	9,349

The town is connected with other places by road. A large number of buses ply from Dumraon to Arrah, Buxar, Sasaram, Bikramganj, Nasriganj, Bhabua, etc. From Dumraon one can easily motor up to Grand Trunk Road *via* Bikramganj and Sasaram.

The main roads in the town are metalled. The Dumraon Municipality maintains about six miles of *pucca* and six miles of *katcha* roads. The vehicles within the town are buses, rickshaws, cycles, taxis, *tamtams* and bullock carts. The condition of some of the roads are not good. The municipality has provided 13 tube-wells for water-supply. There are a large number of wells in the town which supply drinking water.

There is an Inspection Bungalow of the District Board and also one Rest Shed of Irrigation Department. Besides there are a number of cheap roadside eating houses and tea shops which also offer temporary accommodation. Accommodation provided for visitors is inadequate and of low standard.

The town has a Dumraon Raj Hospital with an accommodation of 35 beds. The details will be found on chapter 'Medical and Public Health Services'.

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 167-168.

† Figures from 1901 to 1951 have been taken from *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951), page 8 and 1961 figures from *Census of India, 1961, Volume IV, Bihar, Part IIA* (General Population Table).

The town has a class I veterinary dispensary, a higher secondary school, a girls' high school, a Sanskrit high school and a middle school. All these schools have been sponsored by the Dumraon Raj. The details will be found on 'Education and Culture' chapter.

Dumraon is a large trading centre dealing mainly in paddy, rice, wheat, *khesari*, *gur* and potato obtained locally and exported to places outside the district. It is the headquarters of a police-station and Community Development Block of the same name. *Hats* are held here on Mondays and Thursdays.

There is one cattle farm known as Haryana Cattle Breeding Farm started in 1949 with cows and bulls purchased from the Haryana breeding tracts of the Punjab in 1950. This farm breeds pedigree bulls for distribution for the purpose of improving local breeds. The bulls are in great demand and the demand is on the increase. The farm is situated on about 395 acres of land and at present (1963) has a total strength of about 1,400 Haryana and Shahabadi cattle, besides *jamunapari* bucks and pedigree pigs. The details will be found in the chapter on 'Agriculture and Irrigation'.

The Dumraon Raj has started a lantern factory which is producing good lanterns. They have a ready market. A side produce of the same factory is the production of nails used up by the shoe industry. There are other large-scale industries in the offing.

DURAULI.—Regarding Durauli village the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions:—"A village five miles north-east from the village of Ramgarh, in the north-eastern corner of the Bhabua subdivision, containing some remains popularly assigned to the Savars, the principal of which are two old temples with carved stone obelisks and a large tank little more than three-quarters of a mile long. From the character of the remains, Dr. Buchanan concluded that the Cheros have a temple here, which the Savars destroyed, and that the obelisks found were probably erected to commemorate its destruction. Later investigation has shown that temples and sculptures are clearly Brahmanical in style and conception (*see* Vol. XIX Reports, A. S.-I., 1885)"*

A large number of ancient ruins which include a large tank, two temples, a mound and inscriptions and sculptures representing various Hindu deities. The carvings also include a "Sati-stone" with sculptured panels, bearing the sun and the moon with a human hand in between, which is quite rarely to be found in Bihar. Buchanan attributed the ruins to Suirs and Chero†.

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 166.

† *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. B. Patil (Patna), 1963, pages 92-96.

This village is under the jurisdiction of Ramgarh police-station. The total population according to the 1951 census was 485 persons, i.e., 262 males and 223 females with 67 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 64, i.e., 64 males and females nil.

DURGAWATI.—The *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions this village as 'Dargawati'. It gives the following details of the village:—

"A village in the Bhabua subdivision, at the place where the Grand Trunk Road crosses the Durgauti river by a suspension bridge. Here is a police-station, a post office, and an inspection bungalow, while close by is the Durgauti station on the Grand Chord Line of the East Indian Railway. The road to Zamania, which was more important before the building of the railway line from Gaya to Moghalsarai, here leaves the Grand Trunk Road, crossing the Karamnasa by a temporary bridge in the dry season, and by a ferry in the rains. Sawath, close by, was the headquarters of the ancient police circle (thana), in which were included Mohania and Bhabua. Here Jean Baptiste Tavernier halted on December the 15th, 1665, as he passed down the road from Agra to Patna; and here, from December of 1763 to February of 1764 were camped the armies of the Company and the Nawab Mir Jafar, when the mutinies occurred which have been described in Chapter II."*

Since J. F. W. James revised the *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* in 1924, there have been many changes in the village. There is no more an inspection bungalow at the village and the name of the East Indian Railway has changed to Eastern Railway. There is now a magnificent bridge on the river of the same name. It is also the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name.

The village has a large marketing centre. It deals mainly in paddy, rice, wheat, gram and *khesari*, obtained locally and exported within the district.

GAJRAJGANJ.—A village under Udwanatnagar Block in the Mofussil police-station of the Sadar subdivision. It consists of two villages namely, Ramsagar and Mahuli Buzrug situated on the Arrah-Buxar road 10 miles west of Arrah.

The village is under Chhoti Sasaram *Panchayat*. The village is electrified. About 25 houses have electric connection. There are some small shops for supply of daily necessities.

A *hat* is held on every Friday and Monday. There are two *atta chakis* in it. It is peculiar that there are no bullock carts in this village and there are only six carts in the *halka*. Goods are

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 169.

brought on headload to the market. Bihea and Arrah are the principal markets. There are small ordinary shops that sell tea, sweets and snacks.

There are two lower primary schools in the village. About 35 per cent of the villagers are literate.

There is a Shankar temple at the village. About 15 families of Muslims live in the village. The village is the headquarters of the Village Level Worker of Chhoti Sasaram *Halka*.

This village came into prominence in the insurrections of 1857. Gajrajganj being on the main artery saw the movements from both the sides.

GAROHAT.—This place was visited by Dr. Buchanan who has left an account of the same in his memoirs.*

The *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), gives the following details of the village:—

"A chero chief, named Manda, is popularly believed to have had his citadel at Garohat in the valley.....the Katana seven miles south-west of Bhabua. ruins, tanks, reservoirs and the remains of brick buildings are found extending over an area of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from east to west and half a mile from north to south; and other works, also ascribed to the Cheros, stretch to the east and west along the northern side of the hills."†

This village is one of the most interesting but untapped archaeological sites in the district. According to a note, inserted by Oldham in editing the *Shahabad Journal* of Dr. Buchanan, supplied by the then Subdivisional Officer of Bhabua (Mr. S. C. Chakraborty), the real name of the place is 'Garhvat' which is the site of a big fort one mile off from Mohanpur Tori and about two miles off Bhagwanpur towards south.

There has been no excavation of this site. It is expected that ancient relics will be discovered if an excavation is made.

The strategic advantage of the place makes it clear that this must have been used as a fort or a place of refuge or was probably a seat of the Chero Rajas. In view of the association of the place with the ruins of Mundeshwari hill, the place deserves to be explored further. Buchanan Hamilton had noticed some sculptured fragments of Hindu deities like Vishnu with his vehicle *Garura* indicating that there was a Hindu temple on or near the spot.

* *Journal of Francois Buchanan, district Shahabad in 1812-13, pages 118—122; Patna, 1926.*

† *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 169-170.

GUPTESHWAR.—The last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions as follows:—

“The caves of Gupteswar are situated in a narrow precipitous glen in the Kaimur plateau, about eight miles from Shergarh. The entrance lies a little way up the hill, and is about eighteen feet wide by twelve feet high; the mouth, has, however, been built up into an archway on which are some rough paintings of figures. The first cave, a damp, slimy place with a slippery floor of rock, extends almost due east from the mouth for about 120 yards, with steep descents at the end. About half-way, a branch leads off to the south-east, which, after running ninety feet or so, rejoins the main gallery. A narrow passage again leads from this into the west end of a second gallery similar to the first, which is about 370 feet long. This latter, about 140 feet from its west end, is crossed at right angles by a similar gallery, the south arm of which is the largest, being eighty yards long. Stalactites are numerous, and one of them, on which water drips incessantly, is worshipped as the god Mahadeo. A fair is held once a year at the caves.”*

The cave is a great attraction in the Kaimur plateau but the difficulties of communication stand on the way of development of tourist traffic to Gupteswar.

It is a pity that since Hunter had referred to these wonderful caves with traces of paintings in his ‘Statistical Account of Bengal’, there has not been a proper exploration to ascertain the antiquity and history of the area.

HASANBAZAR.—A village in Piro police-station of the Sadar subdivision on the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway and on the Arrah-Sasaram road. It trades mainly in large quantities of rice which are obtained locally and are exported to areas outside the district. *Hats* are held here on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. A good commercial centre.

HATTA.—A village in the Chainpur police-station of Bhabua subdivision and on the Bhabua-Hatta bus route. It deals mainly in paddy which is obtained locally and consumed within the district.

JADUNATHPUR.—This village is at a distance of about 14 miles from Nauhatta Block. There is a *Katcha* road (of District Board) which connects Nauhatta with Jadunathpur. But this road is not jeepable even in fair weather. There is an another forest road which is jeepable during fair weather and it also connects Nauhatta with this village.

The village has an area of 2,761 acres with a population of 153 persons, i.e., 76 males and 77 females according to the census of 1961 as supplied by the Block office.

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 170.

The village is inhabited by tribals, namely, Chero and other castes such as Rajput, Teli, Kahar, etc.

There is a lower primary school.

ITARHI.—A village, headquarters of a Thana of the same name in Buxar subdivision and on Buxar-Itarhi bus route. It deals in large quantities of paddy, rice and *khesari* which are obtained locally and exported outside the district. *Hats* are held here on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

JAGDISHPUR TOWN.—A town situated on the Bihea-Piro road is the administrative headquarters of Jagdishpur Development Block and the police-station of the same name. It is about 22 miles towards south-west from Arrah, the district headquarters. The nearest railway station is Bihea at a distance of about six miles from the town. It has an area of 2.00 square miles with 1,970 occupied residential houses. The total population of the town according to 1961 census is 11,840, i.e., 5,919 males and 5,921 females.* The total number of literates and educated persons is 2,852, i.e., 2,301 males and 551 females.†

Regarding Jagdishpur town the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions as follows:—

“Town in the headquarters subdivision, situated in 25°28' North and 84°26' East. Population (1921) 8,564. The town was formerly surrounded by dense jungle, from which the mutineers long defied the attempts of the British to dislodge them. This was the stronghold of Kuar Singh to which he retreated on the relief of Arrah; and as it was necessary to break his power effectually, Vincent Eyre resolved to follow up his victory and drive him from his jungle fortress. On the 12th August 1857 the enemy were found in strong position, having a river in their front, the village of Dalur in their centre, partially protected by earthworks, and in their rear the formidable belt of jungle which covered the approach to Jagdishpur. The action was short but decisive. The enemy's right was concealed behind broken ground and low jungle; but as soon as Eyre located their position, he opened upon them with grape; and the men of the tenth Foot following this up with a bayonet charge drove them panic-stricken into the jungle. Meanwhile the Sikhs, the Fifth Fusiliars and the Volunteers from Arrah held in check the mutineers' left, consisting of Kuar Singh's irregulars; and as soon as a howitzer was brought up against them, they too gave way, and a hot pursuit ensued, terminating only at Jagdishpur itself. Kuar Singh had barely time to effect his escape in the direction of Sasaram, leaving his stronghold in our hands.

* *Census of India, 1961, Volume IV, Bihar, Part II-A, page 80.*

† *Ibid.* page 411.

"In April 1858 Kuar Singh, who had been driven out of Azimgarh by Sir E. Lugard, again made his way to the jungles of Jagdishpur; and the officer commanding the troops at Arrah determined on an attack, before the enemy, broken and dispirited, should have time to recover his energies or make any efficient preparation for defence. Accordingly, with two companies of H. M.'s 35th, 140 strong, fifty European sailors and a hundred Sikhs, five artillerymen and two guns, he made a night march, arriving in the neighbourhood of Jagdishpur before daylight. When day dawned he entered the jungles, into which he had not penetrated far, when, meeting with some slight opposition, he ordered a retreat. The retreat on the part of the Europeans degenerated into a panic flight. No entreaties of their officers could induce the men again to form and face their pursuers, whilst heat and fatigue did their work and proved fatal enemies. Man after man dropped from exhaustion; and out of nearly two hundred European soldiers and seamen who left Arrah, not more than 59 returned alive. Guns, ammunition, tent-equipage, etc., fell into the enemy's hands; but it is due to the artillerymen to say that they fought their guns to the last, and out of the five only one escaped. The Sikhs behaved with the greatest bravery, forming a rearguard and covering the retreat; and perhaps it is not too much to say that but for them not a European would have returned to Arrah.

"The jungle, which formed part of the confiscated property of Kuar Singh, was finally cleared by the present proprietors of the Bihia estate. Mr. Burrows, a contractor on the East Indian Railway, had been presented with the lease of the jungle, on condition that he cleared a certain portion within two years; but as it still afforded an asylum to the mutineers, more active measures became necessary, and Government offered six rupees for each bigha of land cleared by a certain date. With four thousand men at work, a broad path of half mile wide was driven right through the jungle, while minor gaps were cut at right angles, rendering the whole accessible and the further concealment of rebels impossible. The estate was rapidly developed by Messrs. Burrows, Thompson and Mylne, the grantees; a large number of wells were sunk; later the Bihia branch canal was constructed through the entire length of the jungle *mahal*; and the estate is now one of the most prosperous and highly cultivated areas in the district."*

There has been since a good deal of change in the town. The town is connected by road on various directions. A large number of buses connect Jagdishpur with Bihea, Arrah and Piro, etc. On the average about 300 persons daily come to the town or go out of it by buses. The main roads in the town are metalled. The Jagdishpur Municipality maintains about two miles of *pucca* roads within

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 170—172.

the town. The vehicles within the town are buses, cycles, carts and *tamtams*. There are some private cars and taxis in the town.

The town has no Dak Bungalow or Inspection Bungalow. The old house of Mr. Mylne now in possession of the Government is used for accommodation to the officials and non-officials.* There are some cheap roadside eating houses, tea shops and a few hotels of a poor standard. There are a number of *pan-biri* shops, hair-cutting saloons, etc.

The town has one lower primary school, one *maktab*, one upper primary sanskrit school, one upper primary school, two middle schools including one for girls, and one high school with 450 students and 12 teachers. The high school has a number of girl students. The town has one library with about 600 books. The readership is about 30 persons a day.

The sanitation of the town is poor. The Jagdishpur Municipality looks after the sanitation, roads, and water-supply, etc. A conservancy staff of 49 headed by a *jamadar* is maintained for the sanitation work of the town. The conservancy staff cleans about 200 private and public latrines daily.

The town has 97 private wells and 37 hand-pumps. The Jagdishpur Municipality has set up seven hand pumps and 53 wells in the town. Besides, 20 drinking wells and 20 hand-pumps have been provided by the Jagdishpur Development Block. The town was electrified in 1960 and about 800 houses have been electrified since. Very little use is made of electricity for industrial purposes.

The town has a State dispensary with 20 beds. Prior to 1955 the dispensary was maintained by the District Board but was provincialised in 1955. It has one doctor and other staff. On the average about 1,735 outdoor and 345 indoor patients were treated during 1963-64. The town has private allopathic, homoeopathic and Ayurvedic practitioners.

The town has a post office including a public call telephone office, a registry office, a class I veterinary dispensary, three slaughter-houses and a liquor shop. It was personally observed that about 75 persons visit the liquor shop daily.

Industries.—So far as the industries are concerned the town has only a few small-scale and cottage industries. There is no manufacture of *gur* and molasses on any considerable scale as mentioned in the District Gazetteer published in 1906. The District Gazetteer published in 1924 does not mention this and so it may be presumed that this industry had disappeared before 1924. With the abolition of the sugar mill at Bihea, the cultivation of sugarcane has gone down. It is understood that the sugar manufactured by Bihea sugar mill was of an inferior quality and could not get a good market.

* It is wrong to ascribe the present house to Kuar Singh.

The small-scale industries are the twisting of ropes and the manufacture of indigenous washing soap. *Sabai* grass obtained from the local market is the raw material for the making of ropes. On a local enquiry it was ascertained that a woman can make $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers of rope a day worth Rs. 6. The raw materials for soap-making are imported from Calcutta, Arrah and Dehri. One labourer can turn out about seven seers of soap per day. Rupee one and fifty Paise are the daily wages of a soap maker.

There are two oil *ghani kolhus* in the town. This small-scale industry is helped by the oil men industrial co-operative society in the town which was started in 1962.

The other household industries are carpentry, pottery, black-smithy, making of brass utensils and hand-pounding of rice, etc.

The cart wheels made in Jagdishpur have a very good market within the district and outside. The carpenters procure the timber from Bihea about six miles from Jagdishpur.

Jagdishpur is noted for turning out fireworks of quality. There are a number of licencees who procure raw materials from Patna, Arrah and Biharsharif and turn out various types of fireworks which are in good demand.

A few co-operative societies were formed to encourage the cottage industries and to give credit facilities. The State Khadi and the Village Industries Board, Patna, the Industries Department and the Block Development Office are the other agencies for giving credit facilities.

Jagdishpur has a sizable market with three grain-golas fed by nine rice mills. Bi-weekly *hats* are held on every Monday and Friday. The cheap modes of conveyance for carrying the goods are bullock carts, pack bullocks and *tamtams*. The main articles sent out from Jagdishpur are rice and cart wheels. There are two fair price shops in the town. The town deals in rice, wheat, barley, *khesari*, linseed, potato, onion, sugar, *gur* and hides obtained locally and exported to various places. Hides are exported to Calcutta.

JARAN OR TARAN.—This ancient site and tank about seven miles north of Suryapura noticed by Buchanan was left out in the last District Gazetteer. Buchanan had noticed a large elevated mound on which was situated a small village, the mound being locally known as Taran. In his description of Deo-Markandeya Buchanan mentions that locally it is taken to be the site of the abode of the Chero Raja Phudi Chandra, who, before he came to it, resided at Deo-Markanda which is about 12 or 14 miles south-east.

Dr. D. R. Patil mentions* :—"The place has not been found mentioned anywhere else as containing ancient ruins and is well worth an exploration, in view of the antiquity of the ruins of Deo Markendeya, with which it is traditionally associated."

KARAMNASA.—A village under police-station Durgawati of Bhabua subdivision on the Grand Trunk Road and on the Grand Chord Line of the Eastern Railway. The main item of trade in this place is *khesari* which is obtained locally and exported to Bombay, Varanasi and Patna.

KARANJA.—This place has also not been mentioned in the last District Gazetteer. Buchanan attributed the ruins at this village to the Cheros. Buchanan noticed a temple at *Dakshina Bhavana* or the gates of the south situated about two miles east from the village Karanja. He found three brick temples with dome roofs, built inside the walled enclosure. One contained the deity of Kali and another a *linga* and the third an image of deity locally called *Bhairava*. Buchanan thought it to be of Buddha. Buchanan also noticed a number of images and carvings scattered about the place and four tanks. No excavation appears to have been made.

KATHAULI.—This village situated about four miles east of Buxar was also not noticed in the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad*. "The well-known battle of Buxar, of 1764 A.D. between the Nawab Vazir of Audh and the East India Company, was fought here, in which the former was defeated with two of his generals, viz., Ghulam Qadir and Shuja Quli, killed on the spot. Both the generals were buried at the site of the battle; but their original graves and the inscriptions on them had disappeared before 1913. The existing tombs and the epigraphs were set up newly thereafter as stated by Blakiston in his report for 1913-14. The Bengal List gives the name of one of the generals as Ghulam Haidar Khan in place of Ghulam Qadir Khan of Kuraishi's List."†

KOATH.—The last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions Koath as :—"A village in the extreme north of the Sasaram subdivision, ten miles from Bikramganj. Population (1921) 5,352. The village contains a dispensary; and it is the headquarters of an engineer of the Public Works Department. Here is the residence of the well-known Bilgrami family descendants of Nawab Nurul Husain Khan, who came from the family home at Bilgram in Oudh after peace had been concluded with Shuja-ud-daula, when he received a large zamindari.

* *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1965, page 188.

† *Ibid*, page 196.

"The village was the scene of Hindu-Muhammadan riots in 1893, and again in 1917, when a very plucky defence was put up by the Muhammadans on being attacked."*

The village is now on the way of becoming a township. This was one of the biggest muslim populated villages in the subdivision. After the partition of the country some noted families of the village went to Pakistan and settled there.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 6,961, i.e., 3,589 males and 3,372 females. The total number of literates was 3,172, i.e., 3,058 males and 114 females†. According to the provisional census of 1961 its total population is 8,220 persons. It is under the jurisdiction of Dawath police-station and Dawath Block.

The village has a mixed population consisting of ex-zamindars, agriculturists, businessmen and service-holders. The main castes are Mohammadans, Brahmans, Kayasthas, etc.

The village has a post office, a State dispensary, two lower primary, two upper primary, one *madrassa* and one higher secondary school. There are 20 teachers and about 700 students in the higher secondary school. There is co-education in the school.

The village has a market with a variety of shops. There are about six flour mills in the village. The village has an inspection bungalow of the Irrigation Department. There is a big library named Rastriya Pustakalya since 1930. There are 1,500 books. The daily readership is poor.

There is a Gram Panchayat in the village.

The sanitation work of the village is looked after by the Koath Union Board. The Union was constituted at Koath in March, 1915. It was styled as the Koath Union Board in 1949. The Union consists of five members. The area of the Union Board comprises the villages Koath, Nawabganj, Fatehganj and Jogiree Dillia.

The partition of the country, as mentioned earlier, led to the migration of members of some noted Muslim families to Pakistan. The Bilgrami family and some of the Pathan families have given a number of poets, scholars and administrators. This village has given a large number of men to the Police and Army. It is unfortunate that the Bilgrami family should now be remembered more by a particular type of sweets known as *Bilgrami*. Some of the old houses are in a bad condition. It is believed that some of the Muslim families had valuable historical records, manuscripts and pictures which have now been lost.

* District Gazetteer of Shahabad (1924), page 172.

† District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad (1951), page 206.

This is also an old village with nostalgic memory and appears to have had an intellectual and economic decline.

KUDRA.—A village under a police-station and the Community Development Block of the same name in Bhabua subdivision. It is situated on the Grand Chord Line of the Eastern Railway and on the Grand Trunk Road. It is an important trading centre for paddy, rice, gram, *khesari*, *masoor* and linseed obtained locally and exported outside the district.

KULHARIA AND KOILWAR.—Kulharia and Koilwar—two neighbouring villages in Shahabad district—accessible by Patna-Arrah road and by Eastern Railway were studied. Kulharia is a densely populated village and there are about 23 types of castes, the predominant of whom are the Rajputs. It has an area of about 1,400 acres of land with homesteads which run to about 103 acres. The villagers are mostly cultivators with lands. There are a few cultivators who do not possess any land. Quite a number of well-to-do families of Kulharia village have made their mark in the Bar and other fields in Bihar. There is a population of about 100 agriculturist labourers who earn their wages by selling their labour. There are a few landless labourers as well.

It is rather peculiar that no industry has been attempted at this village. Excepting a few potters, *biri* workers and basket-makers, there is hardly any cottage industry. The proximity to the towns of Patna and Arrah on either side, the easy accessibility to the market through road and Koilwar Railway Station which is within a mile would normally indicate an industrial potentiality for the area.

In a way the village suffers from the fact that the educated men of Kulharia usually stay out of the village either in Patna, Arrah or elsewhere. The village politics is running into group lines and the pivot is the caste structure. Culturally, the village appears to be rather backward in spite of the fact that there had been educationists, advocates and philanthropists from this village. One of the biggest colleges in the State, B. N. College of Patna, was founded by an ex-zamindar family of Kulharia.

The socio-economic survey of village Koilwar disclosed that this was also a very large village with about 1,338 acres and 772 houses. There are brick-built houses belonging either to the ex-zamindars or to people who were or are in Government services. The majority of the houses are mud-built with tile roofing. Koilwar has a railway station, a post office, a police-station, C. D. Block office, a hospital, a veterinary hospital, a high school and several other schools of lower standards for boys and girls and two libraries besides a *gram panchayat* and a co-operative society. The location of Koilwar just on the bank of river Sone has made the place attractive and a sanatorium for T. B. patients has been built at a distance of two kilometres from the village. The village has got

electricity. Koilwar is supposed to have a healthy climate and is a spot for picnic. The railway bridge on Sone by Koilwar was a piece of engineering skill. It serves both for pedestrians and vehicles below and for the railway above.

The people of the village being close to Patna and Arrah are quite active politically and somehow they are not as complacent or caste-minded as the villagers of Kulharia were found to be although the two villages are within two miles of each other. The economic condition of the village is, however, at a very low ebb. The land is sandy and irrigation facilities are scarce. There are about 500 families of Muslims.

Koilwar has a number of castemen living in amity. There are about 500 Muslim families, 400 Goalas, 250 Baniyas, 200 Mallahs, 200 Rajputs, 150 Pasis, 100 Brahmans, 100 Cobblers, 80 Goldsmiths, 38 Potters and 25 Dusadhs. The figures are approximate. The main occupation is agriculture but there are also some of the castemen following their caste occupation. Peculiarly enough, Koilwar with the facility of a good availability of land which could be utilised for a factory site, communication, etc., has not developed industrially. Koilwar exports quite a lot of fish from Sone river and fish of Sone river is supposed to be very tasty. The site of the two villages Koilwar and Kulharia rather gives the impression that because of the proximity of the city of Patna on one side and the district headquarters of Arrah on the other, these two villages with a future are now somnolent. The human resources of both the villages have been exploited by the towns and many of the talented people have not only left the villages but have ceased thinking of developing their villages. Koilwar with its natural scenery and being on a first class road from Patna or Arrah (Patna is about 26 miles from Koilwar and 12 miles from Arrah) could have been developed into a township with a picnic spot with modern facilities. Fishing and shooting of birds could have been exploited to add to the attraction of Koilwar. The possibility of cold storage for fish and for starting other small industrial ventures might be examined.

Kulharia family.—The family known as the Kulharia family is an ancient and illustrious family and various members of this family have great contributions. The late Saligram Singh and his brother late Bisheshwar Singh founded the Bihar National College in Patna. Saligram Singh had a large practice in the Calcutta High Court. After his death his portrait was unveiled in the Calcutta High Court by Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Chief Justice. He was also a member of the Bengal Legislative Council for a number of years. Saligram Singh and his brother Bisheshwar Singh were devoted Congressmen. They formed the first batch of delegates from Bihar to join the second session of the Indian National Congress held in Calcutta in 1886. The family tradition of doing good to the district and the State has been continued by his son Sri Chandra Shekhar Prasad

Singh and grandson Sri Harballabh Narain Singh. The family has often helped the administration in matters like scarcity or communal riots. In 1942 Movement, one of the members of the family received several bullet wounds but luckily survived. Sri Harballabh Narain Singh had been associated with several public institutions and was the Honorary Secretary of the Bihar National College, Patna.

LOHRA.—This village with an area of 1,783 acres is situated on the Kaimur hills at a distance of about six miles from Adhaura, the block headquarters, towards the south-east and 42 miles from Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters. The village is approachable by a *katcha* road of the Forest Department. There are 61 households and a population of about 302 persons (1964).

There is a *gram panchayat*, and lower primary school. Its building is under construction. A community hall, a co-operative godown and 12 rural houses for Adivasis are under construction in the village. This is an Adivasi village.

MAHADEOPUR.—Regarding Mahadeopur the *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions as follows:—

“A village in the extreme south of the sadar subdivision, ten miles south of Piro, containing the ruins of an old brick temple which General Cunningham considered the most curious specimen of brick architecture he had ever seen. It was 42 feet high, containing an upper and a lower chamber, and the top is crowned by a pinnacle of singular design, which in general appearance resembles two huge mushrooms one above the other. This pinnacle is similar to that which is believed to have crowned the fane at Bodhi Gaya, and the temple corresponds in many features with that shrine as it existed before its restoration (*see* Vols. XIV and XIX Reports, A. S. I.).”*

Dr. D. R. Patil has given details of the temples and mentions:—“What is, however, most striking is the total absence of figure-sculptures and other carvings at the Mahadeopur temple, as may be inferred from the accounts of both Cunningham and Garrick. Local tradition says that the temple was built by two Kayasth brothers, named Raimal and Saimal, of whose date and history nothing is so far known.”†

This village is under the Tarari police-station and Tarari Block with headquarters at Piro. It is about 10 miles south of Piro. The nearest railway station is Piro on the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway. One can travel from Arrah up to Piro either by a bus or light railway and from Piro up to this village either by a cycle or an *ekha* or a bullock-cart. From Piro up to Mahadeopur a *kutchra* road runs which becomes almost useless during the rains.

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 172.

† *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1903, page 246.

According to the Census of 1951, its thana number is 157 and the area of the village is 341 acres. There are 82 occupied houses. The total population of the village is 533 souls (275 males and 258 females) out of which 62 persons (60 males and two females) have been enumerated as literate*. The figures of 1961 Census are not available.

MASAR.—A village in the Sadar subdivision, about six miles west of Arrah town. The village is under the jurisdiction of Arrah Muffasil police-station. This village is in the Block with headquarters at Udwanatnagar.

Masar has been identified with the *Mo-ho-so-lo* of the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsiang and from his account, it appears that Masar must have been close to the river Ganga which is now flowing at a distance of about 10 miles north of the village.

The old name of the village, as proved by the seven inscriptions in the Jain temple of Parasnath, was Mahasara but the original name is said to have been Sonitpur, famous as the residence of Banasura or Bana Raja, whose daughter Usha or Ukha was married to Aniruddha, a grandson of Lord Krishna.† According to General Cunningham Masar town was originally called Padmavatiputra, till a Jain Kshatriya of Marwar, named Vimalnatha, became proprietor, when its name was changed to Mahasara‡.

'Maha' means large and 'Sara' means tank. The legend is that near the village there was a large tank which extended over 52 *bighas* during the time of Banasura. Masar is the crude form (*apabhransha*) of the word Mahasara. There is a tank in the village which is almost silted up. It is also said that this place was previously known as 'Mallasanrh'. 'Malla' means 'wrestler' and 'sanrh' means bull. It is said that Banasura had constructed an *akhara* near the village and it has been identified by the villagers with a mound near the Karisath railway station. Masar is the crude form of 'Mallasanrh'. Some also believe that there had been two *janapadas* here, namely, 'Karusha' and 'Malad'. 'Karusha' has been replaced by Karisath and 'Malad' by Masar.

The village is mentioned in the Statistical Account by Hunter, the old District Gazetteer (1924) and the District Census Hand-Book, 1951, as Masar.

The village is connected both by rail and road communications. The nearest railway station, Karisath, on the main line of the Eastern Railway is at a distance of about one and half miles from

* District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad (1951), page 150.

† Tejpur in Assam also claims to have been called Sonitpur, and the capital of this Raja.

‡ Sources of Information—(1) Hunter's 'Account' (1877), pages 214-215; (2) Imperial Gazetteer of India, Bengal, Volume II, page 72; and (3) District Gazetteer of Shahabad (1924), pages 172-173.

the village. On Arrah-Buxar Road, at a distance of about five miles from Arrah town, there is a village Bibiganj, from where a mile long *katcha* road leads to the village Masar. The river Banas is to the east of the village. Banas emerges from the foot-hills of Gaya and is a perennial stream.

The area of the village according to 1951 Census is 2,271 acres. There are 343 number of occupied houses.*

According to the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* (Bengal, Volume II, page 72), the population of the village in 1901 was 3,073 persons and during 1951 census,† the population was 2,782 persons, i.e., 1,202 males and 1,580 females. The *Mukhiya* reported to the investigator that the present (September, 1963) population of the village is about 4,000.

According to the census of 1951* there were 529 persons (491 males and 38 females) literate in the village. The 1961 Census figures are not yet available (October, 1963).

There are one branch post office and one Multipurpose Co-operative Society in the village. The village is electrified and a number of villagers have taken electric connections. There is an electric tube-well which supplies water for irrigation purposes to a portion of cultivable land. The village is under the Package Programme of the State Government. The village has got a number of mango orchards. There is also one flour mill. The cottage industries are basket-making and the making of winnowing fans.

There is one high school known as Masar High School which was established in 1948 and has got at present eight teachers and 300 students. There are also one upper primary school, one *Balbari* organised under *Samaj Kalyan Pariyojana* of the State Government and one *maktab*. Besides there are three libraries, viz., Sri Saraswati Pustakalaya, Sarva Hitaishi Pustakalaya and Janta Pustakalaya.

The village has got three temples, viz., the temple of Parasnath, a Shiva temple and a Devi temple. Besides, the relics of several Brahmanical gods and goddesses are found in the village.

Regarding the temple of Parasnath, the *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), mentions that it was completed in 1819 A.D. It had eight Jain images on which there were several inscriptions dating back to 1386 A.D. when some Jain Rathors from Marwar settled here. The image of Parasnath contains an inscription which mentions that the image was dedicated by Sri Shankar Lal of Aramnagar 'during the prosperous English rule over the *Karushadesa*'. It is of interest because it identifies the district of Shahabad

* *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad*, 1951, page 126.

† *Ibid.* Also see *Temples and Legends of Bihar* by P. C. Roy Chaudhry, 1965.

with the ancient *Karusha-desha* of the *Puranas*. It also appears from the inscription that Arrah town was known as Aramnagar. There are a number of other relics. The same Jain temple accommodates a Shiva shrine where a *lingam* is installed and regularly worshipped.

The Devi temple is of recent years but the image enshrined in the temple appears to be quite old. On a local investigation it was observed that though the image is known as Devi a goddess, but the image is of a male god. The image itself is in a sitting posture and the foot is rested on a peacock. A peacock is associated as the *vahan* of Kartik or Saraswati but as the image is of a male, the image cannot be of Saraswati, a goddess. The male deity appears to be *Kartik*. The image is of black rough stone and the whole face is plastered with vermilion or *sindur* and the features are not clear. There appears to be scope for investigation as to the identity of this image according to the canons of Hindu iconography.*

The antiquity and ancient ruins of Masar have been described with fuller details by Dr. D. R. Patil who has given more information collected in 1918-19.†

A large Vishnu image found near Karisath railway station is now preserved in the Patna Museum. The local tradition identifies this to be the mythical Banasura Raja.

The Jain temple is managed by a religious trust of Arrah known as Manilal Trust. The daily offerings are coloured yellow *arwa* rice, *kamalgatta*, *kesar*, flowers, etc. The annual *puja* takes place in the month of *Shravana* when hundreds of Jains visit the place and do their *Bandana*. The Shiva temple is on the same site. The Jain temple has a dome at the top and the temple is about 30 feet high. On the eve of *Shivaratri* and in the month of *Shravana* the deity of Lord Shiva is worshipped with great pomp and hundreds of pilgrims visit. During this time the offerings consist of the leaves and flowers of *akwan* plant, flowers of *kanail* plant, *dhatura* and *bhang*, etc.

Masar has a big *mela* on the *Chaitra Navami* and *Vijaya Dashmi*. The *melas* are largely attended and there is a good turnover of sale and purchase.

MER.—The last District Gazetteer does not mention Mer. The following quotation is from D. R. Patil:—

"The village is situated about 10 miles south-east of Chainpur, q.v., and its antiquarian remains are found first noticed by Buchanan, whose information was utilised without much addition by the Bengal List, which is the latest account available on it. Buchanan noticed here the ruins of a temple consisting then only of

* *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963.

† *Ibid.* pages 271–275.

a platform with the debris of numerous carved stones, images, etc., lying on it. It appears from his description that the temple was richly carved, for he refers to numerous images amongst the ruins, such as fourteen armed Ganesa, 'a Nrisingha supporting religious persons reclined against an immense Linga, and a Linga with four heads supported by a fish.....' Nearby he observed a tank from the bottom of which was recovered by him a life-size image representing according to him, 'a fat man sitting, and resembling the images called Kuber in Behar'. Buchanan likened the ruins to those seen by him at Baidyanath, q.v., in the same district and attributed them to the Suirs. The images described by him would appear to be quite curious iconographically and it seems the temple, to which they once belonged, should be dated to the later Gupta or early medieval period. It should be noted that the Mundesvari hill, q.v., containing later Gupta ruins, is hardly seven miles to the north-west of Mer and considering the comparatively fewer Hindu remains of this age in Bihar the place deserves to be explored more fully and systematically".*

MOHANIA.—Headquarters of Mohania police-station and Community Development Block in Bhabua subdivision and is situated on the Grand Trunk Road. The Bhabua Road Station of the Grand Chord Line of the Eastern Railway is situated contiguous to this village. It is a market dealing in large quantities of paddy, rice, wheat, gram, *khesari*, *masoor* and also *mangraila* which are obtained locally and exported outside the district.

MUNDESVARI TEMPLE.—Mundesvari temple on a summit of an isolated hill about 600 feet high, at village Ratgarh, seven miles north-west of Bhabua is the oldest Hindu monument in Bihar and the earliest specimen of the *Nagara* type of temple architecture available in Bihar. The temple is in the shape of an octagon and octagonal ground plan for a temple is rather rare. In the Mundesvari temple there are doors or corridors on the four sides and small niches for the reception of statues in the remaining four walls. The principal entrance is to the east where there are a few pillars although the portico which the pillars supported has disappeared. There is a *lingam* with four heads and a statue of Durga inside the temple. There is some fine latticed stone work on one of the windows. The temple door facing the porch is a fine specimen of architecture with various figures of dancers and musicians. An inscription was found broken into pieces and the inscriptions have been interpreted by some to identify the origin of the temple to 635 A.D. The inscription refers to Udayasena as the ruling chief and records various donations to Mandalesvara.

* *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1968, pages 274-275.

Gupta style is apparent in the carvings. On the eastern slope of the hills there has been a find of a number of statues and rock-carved figures. It is clear that the hill was once the site for a cluster of temples and the Mundesvari temple was the main shrine.

The image of Mundesvari is not typical of that of *Mahisamardini*. Mundesvari deity has ten hands bearing the usual weapons of a *Mahisamardini* but with the difference that she is not in the act of killing *Mahisasur*, the demon in the shape of a buffalo but she is shown as riding a buffalo representing a demon.

Mundesvari is the principal deity in the temple. The deity, however, does not occupy the centre of the *cella* but is installed in one of the sub-chambers of the sanctuary. At this centre of the *cella* there is a *Mukhalingam* with four faces but this has not got the honour of being the presiding deity.

According to Dr. K. C. Panigrahi, sometime a Superintendent of the Eastern Archaeological Circle, the presiding deity of the territory was originally a *Narayana* or *Vishnu* and, in 348-59 A.D., another new deity *Vinitesvara* was set up. The *Narayana* image has disappeared and the *Vinitesvara* is the *Mukhalingam*. This was set up in 348-49 A.D. by Dandanayaka Gomibhata.

The Mundesvari inscription is of great epigraphic importance. The inscription was interpreted by Prof. R. D. Banerjee and the date assigned was 636 A.D. which was also taken to be the date of the temple. This is what was repeated in the *District Gazetteers of Shahabad* in 1906 and 1924. But this view stands exploded.

Mr. N. G. Mazumdar held the date of the inscription to be 348-49 A.D. and Dr. D. R. Bhandarkar considered the inscription to be earlier than the 4th century A.D.

Dr. Panigrahi has taken the three names in the inscriptions, namely, *Narayana*, *Vinitesvara* and *Mandalesvara* to be three separate deities and traces in the inscriptions three periods of religious history of the shrine. According to Dr. Panigrahi originally this was a *Vaishnava* shrine with *Narayana* as the presiding deity, succeeded near about 7th century A.D. by *Shaivism* and *Vinitesvara* originally a subsidiary deity became the presiding deity. Later Mundesvari or a *Mahisamardini* image was installed when *Shaktism* had supplanted *Shaivism*. *Mandalesvara* means the Lord or the presiding deity of the *Mandala* (district) and cannot mean Siva *Narayana* mentioned in the inscription cannot be the same deity as *Mandalesvara* and *Mandalesvara* cannot be distorted into Mundesvari as held by Prof. R. D. Banerjee.

Dr. Panigrahi thinks that with the passage of time and change in religious history, Mundesvari, a *Parsva-devata* in the *Shaiva* shrine of *Vinitesvara*, became the presiding deity of the temple. According to him the transposition took place during the rule of the

Cheros, a powerful aboriginal tribe. The Chero kings were worshippers of *Shakti* and Mundesvari as an emblem of *Shakti* came to be worshipped as the principal deity of the temple although she held a minor position in the actual location of the image. The *Mukhalingam* occupying the major position at the centre of the cella became a minor image. Dr. Panigrahi's researches have not yet been controverted.

Round about the Mundesvari temple there are several half *Amalaks*. The *Sikhara* of the temple is not in existence but a fragment of the *amalaka* originally crowning the spire is still lying in the site. The sculptures on the *Chaitya*-windows *Kirthi-mukhas*, lotus medallions, foliated Vase-capitals scrolls, etc., show the clear impress of the Gupta style. The temple has some erotic figures.

A big *mela* is held near the Mundesvari temple during the *Navaratri*. The *mela* is visited by even more than ten thousand persons.*

NASRIGANJ TOWN.—A town situated on the bank of the Sone and on the Koilwar-Dehri Road and Arrah-Dehri Canal is the headquarters of Nasriganj Development Block and the police-station. It is about 50 miles towards south-east from Arrah, the district headquarters. It has an area of 400 square miles with 1,426 households. The total population of the town according to 1961 Census is 8,920, i.e., 4,481 males and 4,439 females.†

The *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentioned that Nasriganj was a large village in the north-east of Sasaram subdivision with a population of 5,332 (1921). It was a large Government State forming part of the Nasriganj *mahal* which escheated to Government in 1867 on the death without heirs, of the proprietress. With Hariharganj it was a seat of a large trade and was formerly a considerable manufacturing centre. It had lost the commercial importance which it possessed fifty years ago, where there were 21 manufacturers of papers and 42 sugar refineries. It contained

* The following may be consulted :—

1. *An Account of the District of Shahabad*, 1812-13 by Francis Buchanan.
2. *Temple of Mundesvari* by Dr. K. C. Panigrahi—*Journal of Bihar Research Society* 8, Vol. XLIV, Parts 1-2.
3. *Ep. Ind.*, Vol., IX, page 289 ff. and the plate.
4. *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. XLIX, 1920, page 21 ff.
5. *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1906), pages 146-147.
6. *Ibid* (1924), page 173.
7. *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963, pages 291-293.
8. *Temples and Legends of Bihar* by P. C. Roy Chaudhry (Bombay), 1965.

† *Census of India, Volume IV, Bihar, Part II-A, General Population Tables* published from Superintendent of Census Operations, Bihar, Patna, page 31.

a large turbine oil, sugar and flour mill and the manufacture of paper was carried on on a small scale*.

In 1941 Nasriganj came to be treated as a town in the census. The town is connected by both road and waterways. A large number of buses have been running connecting Nasriganj with Bikramganj, Dehri-on-Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua and Arrah. On the average about 500 persons daily come to the town or go out of it by buses. Boats come by the Dehri-Arrah canal. The main roads in the town are metalled. The Nasriganj Union Committee maintains about 2.5 miles of *pucca* roads within the town. The vehicles within the town are buses, rickshaws, cycles and *tamtams*. There are some private cars and taxis.

The town has one District Board Dak Bungalow and an Irrigation Department Inspection Bungalow. There are also some cheap roadside eating houses, tea shops and a few hotels of a poor standard.

The town has one lower-primary school with 150 students and four teachers, one *maktab* with 100 students and two *maulvis*, one upper primary school with 200 students and four teachers and one higher secondary school with 600 students and 15 teachers. The town has two libraries including one Muslim Library. The readership is not more than 25 persons a day.

The Nasriganj Union Committee looks after the sanitation, roads, water-supply, etc. The sanitary condition of the town is poor. A conservancy staff of eight persons headed by a zamadar is maintained for the sanitation work of the town. Very few houses have lavatories. The Nasriganj Union Committee has set up ten hand-pumps and a few wells for supply of drinking water. Electricity has been made available since 1960. About 600 houses have been electrified.

The town has a State Dispensary with eight beds. Prior to 1956 the dispensary was maintained by the District Board but was provincialised in 1956. 1,437 outdoor patients and 210 indoor patients were treated in 1963-64. The dispensary building is in a dilapidated condition at present (April, 1964). The town has some private allopathic, homeopathic and *Ayurvedic* practitioners.

The town has a police-station, a post office including a public call telephone office, a class I veterinary dispensary, a slaughter house and a liquor shop. It was personally observed that about 50 persons visit the liquor shop daily.

Industries.—It may be noted that Nasriganj has had a decline as an industrial centre. It has been mentioned in the Statistical Account of Bengal by W. W. Hunter† that Nasriganj was one of the

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 174.

† W. W. Hunter's *A Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XII (1877), pp. 258-259.

important centres of large-scale industries, namely, sugar and paper. Both were manufactured on the indigenous manual process but gave employment to a fairly large population. About 79 maunds of sugar were manufactured every month. Paper was manufactured at Hariharganj with which Nasriganj formed an escheated estate. The material used in manufacturing paper was *tat* or refuse cloth. The paper found a market in Lucknow, Allahabad and other towns.

Both these cottage industries became extinct even before the sugar and paper mills were started at Dehri.

The blanket weaving industry of Nasriganj, however, persists. The units at Nasriganj employ about 100 persons including females and produce blankets worth about Rs. 1 lakh annually.

The weavers purchase wool from the local market, Jhansi, Mirzapur and Panipat. A few of the units get their supplies of yarn from Bihar State Khadi and Village Industries Board, Patna. The equipment of weavers generally consists of hand-operated looms, pedal *charkhas* and Bihar type *charkhas*. Most of the weavers are hereditary artisans. The market price of the black wool ranges between Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 per maund, and Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 per maund for white wool. There is, however, one joint-stock company, namely, Bihar *Charkha Kambal Ashram*, Nasriganj established in 1940. The main function of the *Ashram* is to import raw-materials from the local and outside markets and manufacture the blankets. The *Ashram* takes loan from the State Government. It now employs about ten weavers and maintains six handlooms. During 1948-49 it had employed about 250 weavers and maintained 150 handlooms.

The reasons for the decline is due to the fact that the *Ashram* is unable to compete with the blankets turned out by the Bihar *Khadi Gramodyog Sangh*. This unit does not give any rebate to the consumers whereas the *Khadi Gramodyog* gives a liberal rebate. It is difficult also for them to compete with the cheaper blankets made by power looms.

There is a Blanket Weavers' Co-operative Society at Nasriganj established in 1959. At present (April, 1964) there are 33 members of the Society and it has advanced about Rs. 3,300 to the weavers.

The other cottage industries are preparing ropes from *Sabai* grass, manufacture of soap and pressing oil by *ghani* (manual crushing machines). There are about 100 persons engaged in rope-making, mostly females as a part-time occupation. *Sabai* grass is obtained from Muni Semal in Mirzapur district, Chenari in Shahabad district, Sahebganj Karwalia and Hosiarpur in the Punjab. Sometimes it is also obtained from Narkatiaganj in Champaran district, and ropes have a ready market within the district. There

is a Rope Making Industrial Co-operative Society at Nasriganj since 1961. About 40 persons are engaged in making ordinary washing soap. The goods are consumed within the district. There is a Soap Making Industrial Co-operative Society since 1960. About 30 persons are engaged in extracting oil from oil-seeds purchased locally. There is an Oilmen's Industrial Co-operative Society in Nasriganj.

The other cottage industries of Nasriganj are pottery, carpentry and blacksmithy. Pottery employs about 120 persons, the majority of which are females. About 30 males are engaged in carpentry and cart wheels. Agricultural implements are turned out by about 50 blacksmiths. The produce of these cottage industries has a ready market within the district. The cottage industries are given credit by the State *Khadi* and Village Industries Board, Patna, Industries Department and the Block Development Office.

Nasriganj has a big grain market. There are eight rice mills and ten grain-golas. Besides the daily transaction in the grain market there is a *hat* on every Tuesday and Friday. There are also six flour mills. The town has six fair price shops.

Nasriganj was once an important centre for catch of fish and its export. The source of supply is the river Sone. But now the water of the river Sone near Nasriganj is polluted by the foul water discharged from the factories at Dehri and Nasriganj, fish has lost its market. The local consumers complain that the fish caught near Nasriganj have a bad smell and taste. The wild ducks in winter are rare now.

NAUHATTA.—This village is at a distance of about 87 K.M. from the Sasaram subdivision. It is the headquarters of Block office of the same name. A District Board road passes through this village. The nearest railway station, namely, Nauhatta Road Station of the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway is at a distance of three miles.

The village has an area of 1,229 acres with a population of 1,777 persons, i.e., 993 males and 844 females according to the census of 1961 as supplied by the block office.

This village is inhabited by Brahman, Rajput, Koiri and other Backward Castes and Harijans. The main produce are paddy, chillies, maize, etc.

There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village. There are two flour mills, one library, one health sub-centre, one post-office, one club and a *Kirtan Mandali* in the village. A weekly *hat* is held on Wednesday.

There are a middle school (from class I to VII) and a girls' lower primary school in the village.

NATWAR.—A village under Dinara police-station in Sasaram subdivision is situated on Bikramganj-Kochas Bus route. It deals in paddy, rice, wheat, *Rhesari*, linseed and potato obtained locally and exported outside the district.

NOKHA.—Headquarters of Nokha thana in Sasaram subdivision is situated on the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway and Bus route. It has a number of rice mills. It deals in large quantities of paddy and rice amounting to more than two lakh quintals of each, of which paddy is imported from within the district and consumed in the local rice mills and the rice obtained locally and exported outside the district. There are a number of wholesalers in this village. Nokha is also the headquarters of an Irrigation subdivision. The village is very congested.

NUAON.—Nuaon is under Ramgarh police-station (Bhabhua subdivision) and Ramgarh Block. It is important for cattle fairs which are held four times in a year in the months of *Phalgun*, *Baisakh*, *Jeth* and *Kartik*. On each occasion the *mela* lasts for ten days. On the average about 25,000 cattle are sold and purchased. People from the neighbouring districts, namely, Ghazipur, Varanasi (both in Uttar Pradesh), Gaya, Palamau (Bihar), etc., also bring cattle for sale. It has got a health sub-centre also.

The village is a big marketing centre. It deals mainly in paddy, rice and wheat, obtained and consumed locally.

ODAR.—Odar is in Bhabhua police-station under Bhabhua subdivision and Bhabhua Block. It is of local importance because of two cattle fairs which are held in the months of *Magh* and *Chaitra*.

PATNA.—Dr. Buchanan had visited this village also during his tours of the district in 1812-13 and has left an account of the same in his memoirs.*

As regards this village the *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), gives the following details:—

“At Patna, a few miles south of Garo-hat in the Bhabhua subdivision, are a number of ruins attributed locally to the Savars or Suirs. The chief of these is a mass of rude stones, broken bricks and earth, 780 feet long from east to west and 1,080 feet from north to south, reaching in some parts to a height of forty or fifty feet above the ground. East of this again is another mass of similar length, but of smaller height and breadth; while north of the village of Srirampur is another elevation, consisting of stones, bricks and earth, and to the south is a circular mound called Baghban (*see List of Ancient Monuments in Bengal*, 1895).”†

* Journal of Francis Buchanan, District of Shahabad in 1812-13, page 149, Patna, 1926.

† *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 174.

This village has been referred to by Dr. D. R. Patil* as Patana and it appears that Buchanan had also referred to this village as Patana. Dr. D. R. Patil after summarising Buchanan's description of the four mounds mentions:—"Buchanan does not specifically refer to carvings or antiquities, if any, observed by him on the mounds themselves. But near the village Patana he noticed, under a tree, some broken images 'in the style of those at Baidyanath (cf. p. 9 above), especially fragments of the quadrangular obelisks.' The collection included a *linga* and the largest of them all was an image which Buchanan took to be a representation of 'Mahavira, the warlike monkey.' A mile south of Patana, at the village Pateshwar also he noticed a collection of 'many fragments of carved stones' and an image of Mahavira or Hanuman, as he could identify it, recovered recently from a tank. The Bengal List calls it an image of Hara (?). From what Buchanan says of the mounds and from the antiquities it appears there is much in common between them and those found at Baidyanath in the same district.

Buchanan was told that the ruins represent 'the capital city of Nindaur, from its having been the residence of a Hindu Raja of the Suir or Sivira tribe.' From the extensive nature of the site and from the tradition attached to it, the place would appear to be of considerable historical and archaeological interest. It is likely some of the mounds may represent Saiva temples. The place had never been examined or explored after Buchanan's visit. It, therefore, awaits a thorough exploration in future."

According to 1951 Census its thana number is 684 and the area 66 acres containing 52 occupied houses. The total population of the village is 287 souls (152 males and 135 females) out of which only 36 males have been enumerated as literate. The figures of 1961 census are not available.

PIPARDIH.—Pipardih is a tribal village under Rohtas police-station and Nauhatta Community Development Block in Sasaram subdivision. According to the census of 1951,† its thana number is 620 and has a total area of 12,715 with 209 number of occupied houses. The total population of the village is 930 souls (469 males and 461 females) out of which only 13 males are literate. There is a Lower Primary School also. The figures for 1961 census are not available. The village was personally studied.

Pipardih was an insignificant village in Rohtas thana of Shahabad district. It had a few straggling huts of Adibasis and a few other people who eked out an existence from the jungle produce and a little grain they could get scratching the hill slopes of the Kaimur Range. The village is on the river Sone and on the

* *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963, page 367.

† *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951), page 293.

opposite side could be seen the Japla Cement Factory in Palamau district. The nearest railway station was Rohtas about 18 miles away. There was no road but a bridle path and tigers were common. A murder probably would not have been reported ten years back in this area before three or four days.

The picture of Pipardih has now been changed. Bull-dozers busily shuttling back and forth has made a jeepable road possible from Rohtas to Pipardih (1963). The road has innumerable ups and downs, big boulders are still to be seen on the off side and a number of streams have to be negotiated which run with swift current in the rainy season though for a brief hour. One has to hold fast to the jeep lest he is thrown out. The narrow gauge of Dehri-Rohtas line has now been extended up to Pipardih, an enterprise of the Sahu Jains with a view to exploit the vast resources of limestone in the Kaimur Range. The extension was thrown open recently and now two passenger trains up and down form the lifeline of Pipardih. About 100 passengers get down at Pipardih from each of the trains. But the importance of Pipardih and the limestone quarry that is being worked will be appreciated from the fact that about 26 goods trains up and down touch Pipardih.

Giant bull-dozers are still working to carve out level patches out of the jungles and hills, slopes for the hutments, workshops, hospitals and offices of those that are working in the limestone quarries. The village-scape of Pipardih is fast changing. About 3,000 workers are engaged in slicing off limestones and doing other work in this connection. The Adivasis of the neighbouring villages like Nagatoli, Reharkua, Kuba, Barka Budhua, Chhotka Budhua, etc., have found ready employment and their women folk could be seen happily working with silver trinkets on their ear and neck. The indigenous Kols, Cheros, Ganjhus of the neighbourhood form a happy band which make up about 50 per cent of the workers while the rest come from Mirzapur, Palamau and other districts of Bihar and a few from outside the State. A small hospital, a creche and a canteen are taking shape. The water scarcity problem in the summer is being boldly tackled and the chugging train at times of water scarcity brings water in wagons from Baulia station a few miles away to supplement the local supply from wells. A weekly *hat* on Sunday brings vegetables, eggs and chickens and a small quantity of fish. In the summer milk becomes scarce as most of the cows are sent away to the pastures in Palamau district beyond the Sone river which belts Pipardih.

The inaccessibility of the area would be underlined by the fact that due to lack of accommodation the office of the Nauhatta Community Development Block covering this area was officially sited about six miles away at Baulia from where it has now shifted to Nauhatta in June, 1963. Accommodation for the Block has now

been provided. Pipardih about 50 miles from Dehri-on-Sone by road and 42 miles by train is a substantial contribution to the industrialisation of Bihar by feeding the Cement Factories at Japla and Dehri-on-Sone. A visit to Pipardih in summer breaks monotony of one's daily life and the bright red *paras* flowers jostling out of bamboo jungles offer a feast to the eye and one may be fortunate to see a bear nibbling at *mahua* flowers or a leopard sneaking out. The majestic tigers have moved out as they did not like the intrusion of men, bull-dozers and the railways.

PIRO.—Headquarters of Piro police-station and Community Development Block in Sadar subdivision is situated on the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway and on the Arrah-Sasaram road. Its main item of trade is rice obtained locally and exported to Chapra and Patna. *Hats* are held here on Tuesdays and Saturdays. There is a Roman Catholic Church. The village is growing into a township. It has an inspection bungalow. The market is growing. There are a State Dispensary and a Class I Veterinary Dispensary. There is also a private nursing home with 12 beds. There is a network of canal system and the lands are fertile. There is a big tank which is, however, not much used for fish culture.

RAGHUNATHPUR.—This village is claimed to be associated very closely with Sant Tulsidas who composed *Ramcharitmanas* so very popular throughout the Hindi-speaking tracts of India. There is an elevated octagonal shaped high platform which is said to have been the place where Tulsidas used to sit and meditate. Tulsidas is being claimed to have been born at Rajapur, a *bechiragi* adjoining village. The mound referred to has now been renovated and a modern marble sculpture of Sant Tulsidas has been installed on its top. There is an *idgah* to the north-west of the Tulsi *chantra*. The *idgah* is of Muslim period and probably built before the Mughals. The front fence of the *idgah* is a modern construction. It is claimed that Tulsidas used to pass his nights at this *idgah* referred to in a couplet by him.

In this connection it may be mentioned that Tulsidas is claimed also to have been born at village Rajapur (Banda district), near Soro in Itawa district, and at Rajapur in Barabanki district but the argument that Tulsidas was born at Rajapur adjoining Raghunathpur and was closely associated with the Tulsi *mandap* at Raghunathpur has some force. There is documentary evidence to show that Tulsidas and his family owned some lands at Raghunathpur. Stray references to his couplets are also mentioned to support this claim. It is not necessary to enter into the controversy whether the language of *Ramcharitmanas* is Awadhi or Bhojpuri. The enthusiasts of the theory that Tulsidas was born in Shahabad district assert that verbs and the inflexions and various expressions in *Ramcharitmanas* make out the languages to be Bhojpuri. It

remains a fact, however, that the *Ramcharitmanas* has a tremendous influence in this area. A *samadhi* by the side of the *Tulsi mandap* is said to be that of Karandas, one of the disciples of the poet.

This is a large village in Brahampur police-station of Buxar subdivision. It adjoins Brahampur where a huge *mela* is held. The village has a population of about 5,000 persons. It is approachable both by railway and by road. It has a railway station of the same name. It is about 29 miles west of Arrah. The main export from Raghunathpur railway station is livestock (buffaloes and cows). They are exported mostly to Calcutta. The village trades in paddy, rice, wheat, *masoor*, *gur* and potato, obtained and consumed locally. *Hats* are held here on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The village is electrified but very few houses have electric connection. No industry run on power is functioning here. The sanitation of the village is poor. The *katcha* roads in the village are in a very bad condition. It becomes difficult to go round the village specially in the rainy season.

There is a mound by the side of a tank and in the neighbourhood there is a small mosque (*idgah*). It is said that the *idgah* is of the Mughal period. There is a temple called *panch mandir*, because it has five idols of Siva, Hari, Shakti, Hanuman and Parvati. In front of this temple there is a big tank kept in a bad condition. The temple was built on a donation made by a *Bania* resident. It is said that the villager won about one lakh of rupees in gambling and out of that he built the temple. The temple is also called *Jua* (gambling) temple.

The village has a post office with a public call office, an inspection bungalow, one upper primary school and one middle school. There are about six *atta chakkis* in the village. The main occupation of the villagers is cultivation. The lands are fertile and there is a tube-well for irrigation purposes. There is a good turnover of business in grains.

The village has a sizeable population of Harijans and they have got their own colony.

There is a tomb of one Shah Rahmatullah about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of the village. People of all castes and communities congregate here on every Friday specially for the treatment of people supposed to be afflicted with evil spirits. The afflicted persons get into a sort of trance and undergo various types of physical torture. The visitors offer oblation on the tomb. An *urs* is also held on the tomb in the month of *Rajjab* (a Muslim month). About five to six hundred people congregate here on that occasion.

RAGHUVIRGADH.—This village was not noticed in the last District Gazetteer. The village, rather a fort, is situated near Patna or Patana on a low rocky ridge extending west from Pateshwar

village. Buchanan had visited this village and thought the fort was erected by one of the Bhar chiefs and it resembled more an European castle, occupying the whole summit of the hill, and a deep ditch separated it from the village. In one of the bastions there is a Muslim tomb.

RAMGADH.—The last District Gazetteer does not mention this village which has remarkable old ruins. The following quotation is from Dr. D. R. Patil's *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar*:—

"The village Ramgadh is situated about five miles north of Baidyanath (cf. p. 9 above) and possesses old ruins which are first found referred to and described by Buchanan. According to him the stone-built castle at Ramgadh is the oldest of the three strongholds of the Bhar chiefs in the district, the other two being Raghuvirgadh and Syamalgadh. It was 'still pretty entire' at the time of Buchanan's visit in about 1812; and 'is placed on the steep ascent of a hill, commanding a narrow passage into a very wild valley'. The castle consists of an enclosure wall, 8' high, pierced with loopholes and has an open terrace towards the pass. Higher up were four houses neatly built of stone masonry as seen by Buchanan in about 1812. In the pass facing the buildings was a reservoir linked with cut-stone. Here Buchanan noticed an image of Mahishasuramarddini Durga indicating possibly the existence of a Saiva temple close by. Buchanan refers to an inscription dated V.S. 1858 (A.D. 1801) referring to the local chief 'in which the family acknowledge the term Bhar'. The Ramgadh ruins are of some historical significance in view of their association with the Bhar tribe which is one of the interesting ruling tribes who played an important role in the history of ancient and medieval Bihar."*

RAMGARH.—Headquarters of Ramgarh thana in Bhabhua subdivision is a village situated on Bhabhua-Noaon bus route. It has a small trade in paddy, rice and wheat obtained and consumed locally.

REHAL.—This village is situated at a distance of six miles from Nauhatta and 40 miles from Sasaram, the subdivisional headquarters. It is on the Kaimur hills at a height of about 2,400 feet. It is under the jurisdiction of Rohtas thana.

The village has an area of 8,392 acres with a population of 779 persons, i.e., 387 males and 392 females according to the census of 1961 as supplied by the block office.

This village is inhabited by the tribals, namely, the Chero and Kharwar. Besides tribals, such castes as Goala and Bania are also found in this village but their numerical strength is much less than that of the tribals.

* *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1968, page 482.

This village has a library, a community hall, an Ayurvedic dispensary, a forest range office, two schools (one lower primary and the other upper primary). There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village and the *Mukhiya* is a tribal.

ROHTASGARH.—The old Gazetteer (1924) gives the following account of Rohtasgarh or Rohtas:—

“One of the most interesting places in the district is the ancient hill fort of Rohtas or Rohtasgarh, so called from the Prince Rohitaswa, son of Raja Haris Chandra of the solar dynasty, to whom the hill is sacred. Haris Chandra is the hero of one of the most beautiful legends of Hindu mythology. The story runs that Haris Chandra, a powerful monarch owning vast dominions, once went to hunt in a forest in which a *rishi*, Viswamitra, lived, and that while engaged in the chase, he disturbed the contemplations of the recluse. The hermit saint, offended at this intrusion on his retreat, resolved to punish Haris Chandra, and appearing one day when he was dispensing charity, induced him to promise to give whatever he asked. He then asked for his kingdom and all his worldly possessions; and the Raja bound by his vow at once fulfilled his promise. Thereupon, the importunate *rishi* demanded *dakshina* to complete the gift, and, in order to comply with his request, the destitute but pious Raja was obliged to sell his wife and son, Rohitaswa, to a Brahman; finally, as the purchase money was still insufficient to satisfy Viswamitra, he sold himself to a Dom at Benares. The Dom placed Haris Chandra at the Manikarnika burning *ghat* with orders to collect fees from all who came to burn their dead; and shortly afterwards, Rohitaswa having died from snake-bite, his body was brought to the *ghat*. True to his master, Haris Chandra humbly demanded his dues, which owing to her poverty his wife was unable to pay. All that she could offer was the ragged cloth which covered her, and Haris Chandra then insisted on her giving at least a piece of this. At this moment, Viswamitra appeared, and, pleased at the piety of Haris Chandra and satisfied with his expiation, restored Rohitaswa to life and gave back his kingdom to his father. It is possible that this legend embodies in a mythical form an account of the early power of the aboriginal Doms; in East Bengal it is the belief of some Doms, calling themselves Haris Chandis, that, in return for their forefather's kindness, Raja Haris Chandra converted the whole tribe to his religion; and it is noticeable that the earliest traditions attached to Rohtasgarh point to its being the home and stronghold of autochthonous races. The tradition that Rohtas was once the seat of their race lingers among the Kharwars, Oraons and Cheros; the Kharwars call themselves Suryabansi and allege that, like Rohtaswa, they are descended from the sun; while the Cheros*

* The Cheros of the Vindhyan plateau claim descent from the Nag or serpent. As Buchanan quaintly puts it, “they claim the honour of being descended from the great serpent, who is king of hell, that is to say, the devil, which is considered as a very ancient and honourable connection”.

claim that they held the plateau till they sallied forth for the conquest of Palamau. Similarly, the Oraons assert that Rohtasgarh originally belonged to their chiefs and was finally wrested from them by the Hindus who surprised them at night during one of their great national festivals, when the men had fallen senseless from intoxication, and only women were left to fight.

"Hindu period."—The only records of Hindu times connected with Rohtasgarh are a few short rock-cut inscriptions at various places on the plateau. The first, at Phulwari, dates back to 1169 A.D. and refers to the construction of a road up the hill by Pratapadhavala, the Nayaka or chief of Japila. Japila is evidently the modern Japla, on the opposite side of the Son, in the district of Palamau; and Pratapadhavala appears to have been a local chief, who is also known to us from two other inscriptions on the Tarachandi rock near Sasaram and at Tutrahi, five miles west of Tilothu. From another short inscription at Rohtasgarh we learn that this chief belonged to the *Khayaravalavansa*; and Professor Kielhorn has pointed* out that this name appears to survive in that of the tribe of Kharwars. The only other record of Hindu rule over the fort is an inscription near the *Lal Darwaza*, dated 1223 A.D., which mentions a descendant and successor of Pratapadhavala, called like him Pratapa.

"Muhammadian period."—In 1539 A.D., the fort passed from the hands of its Hindu rulers to Sher Shah, who at that time was in revolt against Humayun. The story current is that Sher Shah, having lost Chunar, determined to get possession of Rohtasgarh, and as the fort was impregnable, he was obliged to secure it by stratagem. He accordingly sent to the Hindu Raja who was in possession of the fortress, and begged him to allow his family and treasure to remain there while he was engaged in the conquest of Bengal. On his consent being obtained, Sher Shah sent several hundred *dulis*, in the first few of which were a few old women and in the remainder Afghan soldiers and a quantity of arms. On the arrival of the train at the outer gate, the leading *dulis* were examined, and when they were found to contain only the women, the remainder were allowed to enter. The Afghans then sprang out and attacked the guard, while the bearers used their staves until they obtained arms from the *dulis*. The guard were easily overpowered; Sher Shah, who was in camp close by was admitted; and the Hindu Raja fled, leaving the Afghan masters of the fort.

"During his campaign against Humayun, Sher Shah left his women and children in this secure retreat; and throughout his reign it was held by a strong garrison of ten thousand matchlock-men, and was made the repository of "treasures without numbering or reckoning". Henceforth, Rohtasgarh is frequently mentioned by the

* *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. IV, page 311, Note 10.

Muhammadan historians, who dilate on its strength and advantages. The Ain-i-Akbari refers to its great circuit of fourteen *kos* and states that the enclosed land was cultivated and full of springs and lakes, while in the rains there were no less than two hundred delightful cataracts. From other chronicles we learn that the steep ascent was guarded by three gates, one above the other, defended by guns and rolling stones; on the summit were towns, villages and corn-fields, and water was said to have been found in such abundance that if a peg was driven into the ground or a hole was dug, it welled up at once; in these circumstances, it is not altogether surprising to learn that the garrison had to be changed every four months.

"Man Singh, on being appointed viceroy of Bengal and Bihar, selected Rohtas as his stronghold; he had the fortifications put in complete repair, deepened and repaired the reservoirs, erected a palace for his own residence, and laid out a handsome garden in the Persian style. When he died, the fortress was attached to the office of Wazir of the Emperor, by whom the governors were appointed. In 1644 the governor of Rohtasgarh protected Shah Jahan's family when that prince was in rebellion against his father. The fort was immediately under an officer known as a *kiladar*, who had a guard of four or five hundred men and defrayed all expenses from the revenues of the estates which formed his *jagir*; these estates were managed by the *diwan* who was an officer of considerable authority in the fort. Besides these, there were about four thousand matchlock-men, whose duties consisted in guarding different parts of the plateau; they were recruited from outside and had to be constantly relieved because of the unhealthiness of the place. The regular garrison consisted of artillery-men who were permanently settled with their families in a village near the palace and were inured to the climate; they were under an officer known as the *hazari* or commander of a thousand men. After the defeat of Mir Kasim at Udhua Nullah in 1764, he despatched his wife with seventeen hundred other women and children, and much treasure, to Rohtas; but shortly afterwards, on Mir Kasim's final defeat at Buxar, the Begum left Rohtas with the treasure and joining her husband at Tilothu accompanied him in his retreat.

"Shah Mal, the diwan, then peaceably surrendered the fort to the English who advanced under Captain Goddard from Tikari. Captain Goddard remained there for about two months, destroying meanwhile all military stores: after which a guard remained for one year, when the place was finally abandoned. Since that time it has enjoyed a tranquillity broken only during the Mutiny, when Amar Singh and his followers infested the neighbourhood and several sharp melees took place. Finally, as it appeared that the mutineers intended to hold the place in force and to use it as a rallying point, a levy of 250 men was raised to occupy the fort, and a garrison remained there till the end of the Mutiny.

"Rohtasgarh is picturesquely situated on an outlying spur of the Kaimur hills, thirty miles from Dehri and 1,490 feet above sea level. To the left of the spur winds the valley of the Son with low wooded hills on its opposite bank and a higher range in the distance. To the right, the hills sweep round forming an immense and beautifully wooded amphitheatre about four miles deep, bounded with a continuation of the escarpment; and at the foot of the crowned spur is the village of Akbarpur nestling in the midst of undulating hills. The remains of the fortress occupy a part of the plateau about four miles from east to west, and five miles from north to south, with a circumference of nearly twenty-eight miles. It is separated from the table-land on the north by a deep and wide recess, called the Karivari Khoh, a branch of which, Galariya Khoh, also separates it from the table-land to the west, leaving between its south end and the rock overhanging the Son a rocky peninsula or neck, about two hundred yards wide, with perpendicular sides. There are about eighty paths up the rock accessible to men, which were all more or less fortified, while strong defensive works were constructed at the four great *ghats* from which access to the summit was most easily obtained. The principal fortifications now existing are at Raja Ghat and Kathautiya, as the narrow neck joining Rohtas to the table-land is called. The latter was the most vulnerable part of the fortress, and the Hindus are said to have cut a moat across it as a defence against invasion. Man Singh still further strengthened the defences in 1607 by adding some massive works which are the finest remains of the fortifications still extant. These consist of two gates on the northern side of the neck about thirty yards apart with many winding passages and bulwarks attached; both they and the ditch are commanded by a double line of ramparts and bastions, which, rising along a low hill, tower sixty or seventy feet above the moat for a length of four hundred yards. Further to the north across the plateau ran another line of defences; but the only part now standing is a fine gate, called the Lal Darwaza, from the red stone of which it was built.

"*The palace.*—The ascent from Akbarpur, which is the one most commonly used, is over dry hills of limestone, covered with a scrubby brushwood, to a crest where are the first ruined defences; and this is succeeded by a sandstone cliff, cut in places into rough steps, which lead from ledge to ledge and gap to gap, well guarded with walls and an archway of solid masonry. Passing through this to the summit, a walk of about two miles leads to the palace, which was described by Sir Joseph Hooker as follows: 'The buildings are very extensive and bear evidence of great beauty in the architecture; light galleries supported by slender columns, long cool arcades, screened squares and terraced walks are the principal features. The rooms open out upon flat roofs commanding views of the long endless table-land to the west and a sheer precipice of a thousand feet on the other side, with the Son,

the amphitheatre of hills and the village of Akbarpur below.' This estimate of the architectural merits of the palace is somewhat high, as the buildings cannot compare with relics of the same period in other parts of India; but they are of unique interest as being the only specimen of Mughal civil architecture in Bihar, and as affording a striking example of the conditions of military life under that empire. The palace is an irregular medley of buildings extending from north to south, and is entered from the west through a great courtyard enclosed by high walls. On the inner side of this courtyard were the quarters which served as barracks for the troops and at its north-eastern corner is the chief gate of the palace. This consists of a massive arch flanked on either side by the figure of an elephant carved in stone, from which it derives the name of Hathiya Pol or the elephant gate; an inscription over the arch records that it was erected in 1597 by Man Singh. It opens on to a large vaulted guard-room, passing through which one comes to the Barahduari, the best preserved structure in the palace, which is believed to have been used by the viceroy as his hall of audience. In front is an open verandah, supported by four double columns, which leads into a large hall with a vaulted roof overlooked by a corridor running along its entire length. Staircases at either side lead to the rooms on the upper floor, and to the flat roof which is crowned by small cupolas. Towards the centre of the palace is the Aina Mahal, the residence of the governor's chief wife, which stands in the middle of what was once Man Singh's Persian garden.

"Of the other buildings, the most imposing is the *Takht Padshahi*, or Governor's residence, which rises to the height of four stories and is crowned with a graceful cupola. On the second floor are a handsome hall and gallery supported by solid pillars with carved cornices; on the third floor a small cupola leads to a covered balcony overlooking the terraced roof of the ladies apartments; while the topmost cupola gives a magnificent view of the surrounding country and commands the whole palace area.

"*Other buildings.*—Scattered over the plateau are the remains of various buildings, two only of which can be attributed to the time of Sher Shah, viz., the Jama Masjid or Alamgiri Masjid, a mosque with three domes, and the large mausoleum of Habsh Khan, generally known as the *rauza* of Nawas Khan; the latter building, which in style resembles the monument of Hasan Khan at Sasaram, is possibly the tomb mentioned by Buchanan as that of the *daroga* or superintendent of works of Sher Shah. In front of this stands a mosque built in 1580 by an eunuch bearing the same name, and close by there are a number of tombs also dating from Mughal times. The most interesting of these is the tomb of Shafi Sultan (1578), who died suddenly, when he was expecting to be promoted to the rank of Khan. It has some fine stucco ornamentation, and like several of the other tombs, is covered by a dome supported on pillars. Similar

structures are frequently met with in Rajputana, where they are called Chattris; and evidently this style of building, which is never found in Bengal proper, was introduced by the garrison of the fort, who were largely recruited from Rajputana. A similar importation from the north-west is the octagonal open pillared hall covered by hemispherical dome, which stands in front of some of the Hindu temples found on the plateau. The most picturesquely situated of all these temples is the Rohtasan, or temple of Rohitaswa. It stands at the edge of the precipice on a small peak at the north-eastern corner of the plateau and is approached by a long flight of eighty-four steps; little of this temple now remains and the tower and *mandapa* which once formed part of it have long since disappeared. The image of Rohitaswa is said to have been worshipped here until it was destroyed by the iconoclastic zeal of Aurangzeb, who erected a small brick mosque just behind it: the latter was a wretched building which has recently been demolished. Close by the temple of Rohitaswa stands the shrine sacred to his father Haris Chandra, a graceful building consisting of a small pillared hall covered with five domes, the image formerly worshipped here was also removed by Aurangzeb.

"At a little distance from the palace, at the head of a great ravine on the western side of the plateau, is a cave overlooking a sheer precipice about a thousand feet high. A Muhammadan saint is said to be buried here, and local legend relates that he was thrice thrown down the precipice bound hand and foot, but each time reappeared unhurt. At the foot of the plateau there is a large tomb with a long Persian inscription over the gate, which states that when the hill fortress was erected (1638) Ikhlas Khan was its *kiladar* with the rank of a commander of three thousand, and *faujdar* of Makrai and the *parganas* of Siris and Benares, and that his *jagir* consisted of the *parganas* of Jiwand, Sakror, Tilothu, Akbarpur, Belaunja and Japla. The *parganas* mentioned lie in the modern districts of Shahabad, Gaya, Palamau and Benares (see also Eastern India, Vol. I, 1838, Reports, A. S. B. C., for 1901-02 and 1903-04, and Report, A. S. I., for 1902-03)*.

Rohtas has since long been a railway station of the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway. The Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway runs goods and passengers from Dehri to Pipardih and back. Rohtas has become a busy place due to the Murli hill quarries which is nearby the Rohtas railway station. Rohtas has a lower and an upper primary school, one post office and a club for the labourers of the Murli quarry. Besides, there is a hospital for the labourers.

The fort of the Rohtas is under the protection of Government. A path leading to the summit of the hill, where is the entrance gate of the fort has been constructed by the District Board, Shahabad, covering a distance of nearly a mile and counting about 2,000 steps.

* District Gazetteer of Shahabad (1924), pages 174-181.

Dr. D. R. Patil has given details of the history, results of modern exploration including the inscriptions in his "The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar"*. His account of the inscriptions is quoted below:—

"(i) *Rock inscription of Sasankadeva*.—The exact location of this inscription on the hill is not given by Fleet, who noticed it earliest in his well-known work on "Gupta Inscriptions", Kuraishi makes no reference to it. The inscription is in reverse on the rock and the whole, perhaps, according to Fleet, represents a mould or matrix for casting copper seals in relief; as the legend, as seen on the rock, is counter-sunk and not in relief. The seal-matrix is circular in shape, 4½" in diameter, and has, in its upper smaller half a damaged figure of a recumbent bull facing to right. In the lower bigger half is the inscription, in Sanskrit, in two lines, which reads: *Sri-maha samanta Sasanka-devasya* (i.e., of the illustrious Mahasamanta Sasanka-deva). Fleet's suggestion that the Sasanka of this inscription is the same famous King Sasanka of Bengal who killed Rajyavardhana, the elder brother of King Harsha of Kanauj, is generally accepted. He assigned the inscription palaeographically to 7th century A.D. (cf. Fleet, CII, III, pp. 283-84 and Bhandarkar's List no. 1741).

"(ii) *Inscription of Pratapadhavala*.—This was said to have been on a rock near Phulwari ghat; but in 1929 Kuraishi stated that it was not traceable. It was first noticed by Kielhorn in about 1898. It refers to the chief or *nayaka* Sri *Pratapadhavala* of Japila (or Japla cf. p. 182 above) who, it states, constructed a road up to the top of the hill in V.S. 1225 (A.D. 1168) (cf. Kielhorn, El, V, Appendix, p. 22, no. 152; Ind. Ant., XIX, p. 179 and Bhandarkar's List no. 338 and Kuraishi, List, p. 172).

"(iii) *Inscription of King Pratapa*.—This is engraved on the rock of the hill near Lal Darwaja or Red gate of the fort (cf. p. 493 above) for details.

"(iv) *Phulwari Ghat Inscriptions*.—This is on a rock near the Phulwari ghat, a few hundred yards to south of the Rohtasan temple (cf. p. 498 above). It is in five lines and is dated V.S. 1934 (i.e., A.D. 1338). It was first noticed by R. L. Mitra, in 1876 and is not found included in Bhandarkar's List. Mitra says that the inscription is on the jamb of 'a gate in the citadel' and he adds that to the right of the inscription is carved, on the rock, a figure of Hanuman armed with a club with another figure of a lion nearby. According to Mitra it records the birth of two persons, named Muladaha Sinha and Muladala Bhima, but K. N. Dikshit, as quoted by Kuraishi, was doubtful about this reading. The record does not seem to have been studied carefully afterwards (cf. R. L. Mitra, Proc. ASB, 1876, p. 109; Kuraishi, List, p. 153).

* *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963, pages 503—505.

“(v) *Inscription on north gate of the fort (i.e., Ghazi Gate ?).*—R. L. Mitra mentions existence of an inscription on a jamb of the north gate which he says mentions the house or room of one Galunatha. He gives, however, no further details regarding its location, date and contents; nor is the inscription found referred to afterwards by any other authority (cf. Proc. ASB, 1876, p. 110).

“(vi) *The Kathautiya Gate inscriptions: (a) of Raja Man Singh.*—Over the arched entrance of the gate are two inscriptions one in Sanskrit and the other in Persian. The Sanskrit record refers to the completion of the construction of the gate (or rather repairs to it) in 1607 A.D., while the Persian record mentions Raja Man Singh as the builder of the gate (cf. Kuraishi, p. 153 and see also p. above).

“(b) *of Tomar Chief Viramitra Sena.*—(cf. p. 490 above for details. The inscription is now in Indian Museum, Calcutta).

Buchanan, Shahabad, pp. 107 ff; U. N. Ghosh, Rohtasgarh (1908); Hunter, Statistical Account, XII, pp. 209 ff; Bengal List, pp. 362-3; Block, An. Rep., ASI, 1902, p. 22; An. Rep., ASI, 1902-3, pp. 57-58; JASB, 1839, pp. 695 ff; BODG, Shahabad, pp. 174 ff; Kuraishi, List, pp. 146-183.”

SANJHAULI.—A village under Nokha police-station of Sasaram subdivision, and is situated on the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway and on Arrah-Sasaram road. It is a very large marketing centre. It deals mainly in paddy, rice, wheat, *masoor*, *khesari*, linseed and mustard oil obtained locally and exported to Chapra, Patna and Jharia and also consumed locally.

SARANJA.—Under Rajpur police-station of Buxar subdivision is a village situated in the interior at a distance of 10 KM from Chausa Railway Station on the main line of the Eastern Railway and 10 KM from the nearest Buxar—Chausa bus route. It deals in cereals and pulses and oils and oil-seeds obtained locally and exported within the district.

SARKI.—The village is situated on the Kaimur hills at a distance of about 20 miles south of Adhaura, the block headquarters and 56 miles from Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters. It has an area of 388.27½ acres with 66 households and a population of approximately 383 persons.

It is the headquarters of a *gram panchayat*. There is a residential basic school having 29 students. The village has no road. A co-operative godown and a community hall in the village are under construction. There are a foot and mouth diseases trough, a *chuan* and a well also in the village. This is an Adivasi village.

SARODAG.—The village is situated on the Kaimur hills at a distance of 14 miles from Adhaura, the block headquarters and 50 miles from Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters. It has an area of 3,409.95 acres, 69 households and a population of approximately 279 persons.

The village is connected with Adhaura by a *katcha* hilly road constructed by the Forest Department. The village has an Ayurvedic dispensary maintained by the Welfare Department. It is the headquarters of a *gram panchayat*. A *Tasar* seed supply sub-centre is located here. A primary school, a co-operative godown, an irrigation bundh and seven rural houses for the Adivasis in the village are under construction. There are one *chuan* and one foot and mouth diseases trough in the village. This is an Adivasi village.

SASARAM (CHHOTI SASARAM).—This is a large village in mofussil police-station and Udwanthnagar Block of the Sadar subdivision. It is located near Arrah-Buxar road and is about 10 miles west of Arrah. The nearest railway station is Bihea about four miles west of the village. The total population is 2,408 (males 1,191; females 1,217). The village is the headquarters of a Panchayat.

There are one high school, one middle school, one upper primary school and one lower primary school in the village. There are about 500 boys in the high school. The incidence of literacy seems fairly high. All these schools have co-education.

Although the main occupation of the villagers is cultivation and the village is so close to Arrah, Package Programme does not appear to have caught the imagination of the people as the number of participants in the Package Programme is on the decline. There are two tube-wells in the village and one of them is lying out of order since three months when the village was visited in September, 1964. The nearest post office is Gajrajganj about one mile and both Gajrajganj and Sasaram have got a number of grocers and vegetable shops. This village has a sizeable vegetable belt.

This village is only four miles from Bihea Block headquarters but has been connected with Udwanthnagar which is 18 miles and only accessible by *pucca* road *via* Arrah.

SASARAM SUBDIVISION.—The *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1906) mentions. "South-eastern subdivision of the district lying between 24°31' and 25°22'N., and 83°0' and 84°27'E., and extending over 1,481 square miles. Its population was 538,903 in 1901 against 533,356 in 1891, the density of population being 362 persons to the square mile. The Kaimur hills in the south afford little space for cultivation, and this part of the subdivision suffered severely in the famine of 1896-97. Altogether 480 square miles are reported to be under cultivation, of which 224 square miles are irrigated by the Son canals. The subdivision contains one town

Sasaram, its headquarters, and 1,906 villages, one of which, Dehri, is important as the site of the headquarters of the Son canal system. There are old forts at Shergarh and Rohtasgarh, and Sasaram itself contains antiquities of great interest**.

The last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentioned that the total population of this subdivision was 5,38,903 in 1921 against 5,44,374 in 1911. It also mentioned that 854 square miles were under cultivation, of which 434 square miles were irrigated†.

Sasaram subdivision has since expanded enormously.

The following statement will show the incidence of the growing population in Sasaram subdivision from 1901 to 1961:—

	Year.			Persons.	Males.	Females.
1901	..	..	..	5,39,635	2,60,210	2,79,425
1911	..	..	..	5,44,374	2,63,078	2,81,296
1921	..	..	..	5,38,903	2,65,216	2,78,687
1931	..	..	..	5,89,585	2,94,355	2,95,210
1941	..	..	..	6,90,220	3,50,734	3,39,486
1951†	..	..	..	8,26,278	4,22,547	4,03,731
1961**	..	..	..	10,18,636	5,19,920	4,98,716

The Subdivisional Officer is the head of the administration of the subdivision. He is directly under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. There are ten police-stations, namely, Sasaram, Bikramganj, Rohtas, Chenari, Dehri, Nasriganj, Dinara, Dawath, Kargahar and Nokha in this subdivision.

This subdivision has 13 Community Development Blocks, namely, Bikramganj, Karakat, Dinara, Dawath, Kargahar, Nokha, Sasaram, Sheosagar, Rohtas, Nawhatta, Chenari, Dehri and Nasriganj. The Block is an unit for both the revenue administration as for the development work. Each Block has been placed under a gazetted officer who is called the Block Development Officer. He is normally of the rank of a Deputy Collector or a Sub-Deputy Collector. The Block Development Officer has to do all the revenue and development work of a Block.

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1906), page 154.

† *Ibid* (1924), page 181.

‡ *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad*, page 4.

** *Census of India, 1961, Volume IV, Bihar, Part II-A, page 30.*

Sasaram town has a municipality. There are notified area committees at Nasriganj and Dehri-on-Sone. The details of the municipality and the notified area committees will be found on "Local Self-Government" chapter.

As regards trade, this subdivision exports cement, sugar, paper, timber, limestone, etc., to Lucknow, Calcutta, Bombay, Patna, Kanpur, etc. It imports medicine, machine, soap, shoes, etc., from Calcutta, Bombay, Kanpur and Varanasi.

So far as the agricultural products are concerned this subdivision is mainly a paddy and sugarcane growing area. The staple food are rice, *dal* and vegetables, *murhi* (fried rice), *gur*, *chura*, curd and *ghughni* (boiled gram) constitute their favourite tiffin. Use of *biri*, *khaini* (tobacco) and *pan* are very common.

The incidence of education and literacy is fairly high. The people of this subdivision pay much attention to education. There are 60 high schools including higher secondary schools and three colleges in this subdivision and many lower and upper primary schools.

This subdivision has got a number of important villages, namely, Surajpura, Koath, Babhnaul, Karakat, Dawath, Nawhatta, etc. They have been separately covered.

The southern part of the subdivision is becoming an important industrial zone. The Sahu Jain Industry manufactures cement, sugar, paper and board, chemicals, vanaspati, etc. The details have been given separately.

There are four towns in this subdivision, namely, Sasaram, Nasriganj, Bikramganj and Dehri, discussed elsewhere.

At Bhaluni in this subdivision a fair is held in October and April in honour of the goddess Devi. It attracts about ten thousand persons, and spices, piece goods, and articles of local manufacture are the principal articles sold. Besides this *melas* are also held on the occasion of Durga Puja, Ram Navami, Shivratri, Lakshmi Puja and Muharram in the big villages of the subdivision.

This subdivision offers great facilities for *shikar*. Both wild games and birds used to be available in plenty in the hills and forests, river belts and water pools. Crocodiles used to be abundant. There has been a decline in the availability of the birds and some particular species of deer have disappeared. At present owing to the high prices of bullets and cartridges there has been an increase in the number of wild animals. One misses the wild ducks that used to fill the bed of the Sone river at Nasriganj and other places. The observations in the section of the forest may be looked into.

The subdivision is also remarkable for some temples, passes and mineral deposits. With the continuing development of the communication and irrigation facilities due to the Sone Barrage project nearing completion, the subdivision is found to play an increasing important role in the economy of the district and of the State.

SASARAM TOWN.—Regarding Sasaram town the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* mentions as follows:—

“Headquarters town of the subdivision of the same name, situated on the Grand Trunk Road at the 350th mile from Calcutta, in 24°57'N. and 84°1'E. There is here a station on the Grand Chord line of the East Indian Railway, and the terminus of the Arrah-Sasaram railway. The population (1921) is 22,308, which shows a slight decline from the population of 1911 (23,097). Of the existing population, 12,884 are Hindus and 8,886 are Muhammadans; 535 Sikhs account for practically the whole of the balance. The full name of Sasaram (Sahasram) is said to be Shasra Arjanpura, because the thousand armed Haihaya Chief Arjuna died here. His thousand arms are said to have been cut off by Parasu Rama, when he fled with all his followers to this place. Here he died, and his followers gave his name to the town which they had built. The town lies about sixty miles from Arrah and commands a fine view of the north escarpment of the Kaimur hills, two miles distant to the south. It is about a mile in diameter and consists of a mass of old brick houses closely packed along narrow lanes.

“During the Mutiny Sasaram was a centre of disturbance. In August 1858 it was attacked and plundered by a body of rebels from Arrah; and the part played by the people in driving this force away was recognized by Government in officially giving the town the title of Sasaram Nasir-ul-hukkam, i.e., Sasaram the loyal town, while Shah Karbir-ud-din, the Sajjada-nashin, who was their recognized leader and who loyally supported Government through the crisis, was rewarded with a *khilat* of Rs. 10,000 and a *sanad* under the seal and signature of the Governor-General.* Amar Singh and his followers infested the neighbourhood, and a large British force had to be stationed in the town in order to meet marauding parties, to secure the tranquility of the south of the district, and to keep open communications along the Grand Trunk Road by which the troops were marching to the north. It was for some time the headquarters of an independent command composed of two or three hundred European soldiers with seventy artillerymen and four 9-pounder guns, besides a levy, two hundred and fifty strong, which had been raised for the occupation of Rohtasgarh. The inhabitants still point to a rising knoll to the north of the town where those rebel leaders who were

* See “*Inside Bihar*” by P. C. Roy Chaudhury (Bookland, 1962), for further details.

captured were executed; and the cemetery close by at Koraich contains a number of graves of European soldiers who died here during the Mutiny.

Monuments.

"The most ancient monument at Sasaram is an Asoka inscription, inside a small cave near the top of Chandan Pir's hill to the east of the town. The inscription, which is referred either to the year 232 or 231 B.C., the last year of the aged Emperor's life, probably contains a date referring to the death of Buddha; but no convincing interpretation* of it has yet been found: other versions of the same edict exist at Rupnath in Central India, at Bairat near Jaipur, and at Siddapur in the Mysore State. The hill where the inscription is found was evidently an old Buddhist site, which appears to have been appropriated later on by the Muhammadans. The latter call the cave the *chiragdan* or lamp of the saint, Chandan Pir, whose *dargah* is on the summit of the hill; they know nothing, however, of his life and history, although they insist upon his being called *Shahid*, or martyr, and worship at his tomb. General Cunningham, however, quotes a legend which seems to have been suggested by that of Sahasra Arjun. According to this story a Muhammadan saint living at Benares had his head cut off by a Hindu named Chandan, and fled away without his head till he reached Sasaram. Here he asked a woman for some betel to eat, but she replied: "What is the use of giving you betel when your head is gone?" On this, the holy man at once dropped down dead. A small building close to the *dargah* was erected by a tobacco-seller in 1804, and at the foot of the hill is a ruined mosque of the time of Jahangir (1613 A.D.). On the Tarachandi rock, one mile to the south, is an inscription of Pratapadavalala engraved on the rock close by the figure of Chandi Devi.

Tomb of Sher Shah.

"The magnificent mausoleum of Sher Shah inside the town and the smaller one of his father, Hasan Khan Sur, east of it, are among the most important ancient monuments in the province. The former, which is one of the noblest specimens of Pathan architecture in India, is an imposing structure of stone, standing in the middle of a fine tank about a thousand feet square and rising from a large stone terrace. This terrace, which is thirty feet high and three hundred feet square, rests on a large stone platform with a flight of steps leading to the water's edge, and, for some unknown reason, was not built squarely upon it, but placed obliquely to its sides. The following description† of the tomb gives an account of the building

* See, however, *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. I, page 130, Asoka, page 138, by Vincent A. Smith, and *Early History of India*, page 154, by the same author.

† *Travels in India during 1780—83*, by William Hodges, R. A., London, 1793.

as it existed between 1780–83: 'The plan of this mausoleum is a square base, rising from the centre of the lake, having at each angle pavilions crowned with domes and finished with a cullus; from this base was a bridge that, from the ruins now remaining, must have consisted of six pointed arches which communicated to the side of the lake, and on two sides are a double flight of steps to the water; on the base is raised an octagon building, having three pointed arches in each face, and on each angle are pavilions finished like the former. Somewhat behind this runs an octagon ninety-two feet in diameter, and from the extremes spring the dome, which is finished on the top by a small pavilion, like those already described'. When Buchanan saw the tomb, the only means of access to it was a raft made of a bamboo framework supported by earthen pots; and the dome was crowned by a small cupola resting on four pillars. When the building was restored by Government in 1882, this cupola was pulled down and replaced by a pinnacle similar to that on Hasan Khan Sur's Tomb; and a causeway, three hundred and fifty feet long, was built to connect the tomb with the northern side of the tank.

"Mounting from the causeway to the terrace, the building is entered through a wide verandah, running all round the building with three arches on each side. The interior of the tomb consists of a large octagonal hall surrounded by an arcade of Gothic arches, from which springs a second octagonal storey, and above this rises the dome with a span of seventy-two feet. The grave of Sher Shah lies in the centre with the right side turned towards Mecca, and is distinguished from the other graves near it by a small column placed at its head; the latter are ranged in two rows at its foot, and are said to belong to the Emperor's favourite officers. The hall is lighted by a series of windows above the verandah filled with stone tracery, and the Mecca niche is richly ornamented with passages from the Koran carved in stone. Two broad terraces, at each corner of which are cupolas supported on stone columns, lead round the building, the first being over the verandah and the second at the base of the dome. Traces of coloured enamelled tiles still exist on the domes of the different kiosques and the walls of the tomb. Its height from the floor to the apex of the dome is one hundred and one feet and its total height above the water is over one hundred and fifty feet; the octagon forming the tomb has an interior diameter of seventy-five feet and an exterior diameter of one hundred and four feet. The tomb is remarkable for the great span of its dome, which is thirteen feet wider than the dome of the Taj Mahal; and for grandeur and dignity it is quite unequalled in northern India. The architecture is predominantly saracenic in character; but the influence of Hindu architecture is distinctly to be seen in the design.

Tomb of Hasan Khan Sur.

"In the centre of the town is the mausoleum of Hasan Khan Sur, the father of the Emperor (1538 A.D.). It stands in a large courtyard, enclosed by a high wall of cut stone with towers at the four corners and a gateway to the east. The tomb consists of an octagonal hall surmounted by a large dome and is surrounded by an arcade with three Gothic arches on each side. This arcade is crowned on each side by three small domes and is richly ornamented with plaster engraved with sentences from the Koran; above it is a terrace running round the basement of the dome with pillared kiosque at each angle. The tomb was once adorned with glazed pottery and profuse stucco ornamentation, but few traces of these are left.

Tomb of Salim Shah.

"In the middle of a large tank, about half a mile to the north-west of Sher Shah's tomb, is situated the tomb of his son, the Emperor Salim Shah, where his body was brought from Gwalior (1553 A.D.). The building was never completed, and all that can be seen is an octagonal-shaped building, about ten or fifteen feet high, with some of the arches turned. In the centre of the building is the grave of Salim Shah: on its left is a second grave, and at its foot five others of smaller size, the whole being surrounded by a wall about seven feet high, rudely built of rough stones and clay. Probably the body of Salim Shah was deposited here in state to wait for the completion of the tomb; but owing to the downfall of his family the building was never finished. Enough remains, however, to show that it was intended to construct a large octagonal hall, one hundred and forty feet in diameter, covered with a dome and surrounded by an arcade, while at each corner was an octagonal projection on which kiosques or minarets would have been erected. Perhaps the most striking part of the remains is a stone bridge of trabeate construction, connecting the island with the southern side of the tank; it consists of eleven spans crossed by large stone slabs laid from abutment to abutment and has ten small balconies projecting from each side, which would have been crowned with cupolas, had the design been carried out.

Tomb of Alawal Khan.

"Outside the town to the south is the ruined tomb of Alawal Khan who, according to local tradition, was the officer in charge of the building of Sher Shah's mausoleum and took advantage of his position to appropriate the finest stone for his own tomb. The eastern and western walls, which are surmounted by cupolas are in fair preservation, and the principal door has some fine carving round it.

Other buildings.

"The only other buildings in Sasaram worthy of mention are the building known as the *Kila*, the Idgah and the Turkish bath. The former is popularly supposed to be the old house of Hasan Khan Sur, and though in a ruinous state is a fine building. The Idgah near Sher Shah's tomb was built by Mujahid Khan in the time of Shah Jahan (1633—1636 A.D.). The Turkish bath, which, like the tombs of Sher Shah and Hasan Khan Sur, is maintained by Government, is ascribed by local tradition to the time of Sher Shah. Mr. Twining, who was Collector of Shahabad at the beginning of the 19th century, alludes to the bath as the old imperial bath and states that it is decorated with mosaic, similar to that of Delhi and Agra, composed of cornelians from the Son; no traces of this mosaic are left. The bath was constantly used by travellers along the Grand Trunk Road before the construction of the railway; and an old visitors' book contains record of their appreciation of it*.

The Khankah.

"Sasaram contains an important religious endowment in the *khankah*†, which was founded early in the 18th century by a devout Mohammadan, named Sheikh Kabir Darwesh, the ancestor of the present Sajjada-nashin, or superior of the institution. It was endowed in the year 1717 A.D. by the Emperor Farrukhsiyar with eighteen villages, given rent-free and producing the computed income of a lakh of *dams*, or about Rs. 940 a year, 'on account of the expenses of the *khankah*' without further specification. In the year 1762 A.D., the Emperor Shah Alam added forty-one villages, producing three thousand rupees a year, also assigned free of revenue to the holy saint Sheikh Zia-ud-din for the expenses of travellers and comers'. There were also some gifts of smaller value made to the superior of the *khankah* for the time being by authorities inferior to the Emperor, but claiming the right to exempt land from the public revenue. The validity of the proceedings purporting to make the assigned villages revenue-free was examined by the resumption authorities in 1836, with the result that the order of Farrukhsiyar was declared to be good, while that of Shah Alam was found to be of no force, inasmuch as possession of the land assigned by it was not obtained until after the establishment of the Company's administration, when Shah Alam's right to make such gifts had passed away. No revenue was, however, assessed, on the ground that the lands were attached to a useful institution, which was declared by Government to be of a charitable character. The grants of the subordinate rulers were likewise approved, except in

* See Reports, A. S. I., Vol. XI; *List of ancient monuments in Bengal*, 1895; and Report, A. S. B. C., for 1901-02.

† Report of the Muhammadan Educational Endowments Committee, 1888.

two instances in which the exemption from revenue being declared invalid, the land tax was assessed at half the usual rate.

"As to the nature of the institution for the support of which this provision was primarily made, it has been ruled by the Calcutta High Court that the *khankah* is a religious foundation, being a place in which persons exclusively devoted to a spiritual life reside and carry on their pious exercises. It includes a mosque, where customary ceremonies are performed at certain festivals, and the tombs of devout persons at which prescribed observances are followed; and arrangements are made for teaching religious books and for distributing alms to the poor.

"Local agents for the control of the endowment under Regulation XIX of 1810 are mentioned at an early period, but it appears that if any were appointed in addition to the Collector, who held the position *ex-officio*, they never enjoyed real power, as in 1842 we find the Sajjada-nashin altogether denying their authority, on the ground that the institution was of a private character. In that year Government insisted on the existence of the right to supervise, but directed that its exercise should be confined to the land granted by Shah Alam, about half the whole, the rest being left to the Sajjada-nashin, without control or interference, as his personal remuneration for the duties performed by him. This arrangement did not work well, owing to friction between the local agents and the Superior, and in 1849 Government definitely withdrew from all connection with the endowment, reserving only the right to intervene in the event of any future abuse or misappropriation. Attention was again drawn to the matter in 1865, when there was a dispute as to the succession, and the Board of Revenue, to whom the Collector referred the question whether the secular portion of the endowment should not be separated from the religious under Act XX of 1863, decided that the endowment was exclusively secular, and re-appointed local agents to exercise supervision under Regulation XIX of 1840. These local agents assumed a hostile attitude towards the Superior, Shah Mohi-ud-din Ahmed, who openly challenged their assumption of authority as illegal, and also offered an irritating opposition in detail to every attempt at interference. The Board in 1868 passed rules for his guidance, regulating how much he should spend on each branch of the endowment, such as education, alms and religious ceremonies; but in 1870 they greatly modified these rules, on the ground that in their original form they deprived him of all initiative. On the rules being changed, the members of the Committee resigned, but not before they had sent in a report accusing the Superior of mismanagement. New agents were appointed, who in 1875, after a protracted conflict with the Superior and after an investigation at which he declined to be present, reported that he was guilty of misfeasance, in

neglecting the rules laid down by the Board. On this finding, Government dismissed Shah Mohi-ud-din from his office.

"From 1875 to 1884 the endowment was practically managed by Government through the Collector as local agent. Under this system very satisfactory results were obtained. A cadastral survey was made of the estate, a record-of-rights was prepared for the protection of the raiyats, the system of management by middlemen was abolished, and the income was thus greatly increased without raising the cultivators' rents. A fine stone building was erected for the Madrasa which was raised to the first position in its class and affiliated to the Calcutta Madrasa; a new dispensary was also erected, and charitable works generally were prosecuted with vigour. The religious observances were not neglected, Shah Mohi-ud-din being restored to the position of Superior expressly to direct them, and receiving a handsome allowance for so doing.

"For some years Shah Mohi-ud-din acquiesced under protest in this arrangement, but just before the expiry of the period of limitation he brought a suit for the restoration to him of the property of the endowment, on the ground that he was not to blame in any way and that the institution being of a religious and family character, Government had no jurisdiction to eject him from his position. The Subordinate Judge found that not only had there been no mismanagement, but also that the dismissal was invalid, as the executive Government was not authorized to remove a manager of an endowment for misconduct, and that in the absence of any express enactment the power of dismissal vests in the Civil Courts. Shah Mohi-ud-din was, therefore, restored and the Court, making the division between secular and religious objects which the Board of Revenue is empowered to effect under Act XX of 1863, declared that the villages granted by Shah Alam, about half the entire property, should be held for temporal purposes, subject to the superintendence of the local agents, and that the profit of the rest of the lands should be devoted, free from all external control, to religious acts and uses, including the maintenance of the Superior and of his family. The distinction thus drawn was founded partly on the words of Shah Alam's grant, and partly on the fact that Government in freeing these lands from revenue had declared them to be attached to a secular charity, and again in 1842 had placed them under a special supervision, to which the Superior of the day yielded for a time. This decree was afterwards confirmed on appeal by the High Court.

"Much of the property of the endowment has been lost, as one of the Superiors of the *khankah* dying without male issue alienated most of the land of the endowment to his descendants in the female line. The property was recovered for the foundation after prolonged litigation, which ended only when an appeal was made to

the Privy Council. Five of the eighteen villages granted by Farrukhsiyar and eight of the forty-one villages given by Shah Alam remain in the possession of descendants of former Superiors and are still held by them as their private property, as the legal advisers of Government, to whom a reference was made, were not in favour of an attempt being made to recover them so long after the original malversation. The total income of the endowment is now about thirty-two thousand rupees, of which about five thousand annually are available for educational purposes*.

Sasaram is a different town now (1964). It has expanded enormously and is now a large town. Now the East Indian Railway is known as the Eastern Railway. Near the Sher Shah's tomb, there is a park round the tank. It was put up in 1937 through the efforts of the Second Officer and the Subdivisional Officer Messrs P. C. Roy Chaudhury and M. Azfar. The tank surrounding the tomb is in use and it serves the purpose of drinking water to thousands of people. The park sponsored in 1937 has not been kept up properly.

The total population of the town according to the census of 1951 was 29,265, i.e., 14,782 males and 14,483 females. According to the census of 1961, the total population is 37,782, i.e., 19,540 males and 18,242 females†.

This town is at the junction of several roads such as Sasaram-Arrah, Sasaram-Dehri-on-Sone, Sasaram-Bhabua, etc. These roads connect Sasaram to Arrah, Patna, Varanasi, Gaya, Bhabua, etc. Buses and trucks ply in these distant places with passengers and commodities. The main roads in the town are metalled. The Sasaram Municipality maintains about seven miles of *pucca* road and six miles of *hatcha* road within the town. The vehicles within the town are buses, rickshaws, cycles, *tamtams*, taxis and bullock-carts. The town is now very congested with poor sanitation. Civic amenities are poor.

So far as the medical and public health is concerned, the town has a subdivisional hospital. Besides there are about ten allopathic, 15 homoeopathic and ten *ayurvedic* private practitioners in the town. There is no sewerage system within the town.

There are two cinema houses. The students are the chief patrons of the cinéma houses. This may be due to the fact that there are hardly any other sources of recreation.

The town is important from the administrative point of view. Besides being the subdivisional headquarters of the subdivision, it has a large number of offices of both the Central and State Government. Some of these Central Government offices are Post and

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad*, 1924, pages 181—189.

† *Census of India 1961*, Vol. IV, Bihar, Part II-A General Population Tables, page 31.

Telegraph Office, the Railway, the branch office of the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Some of the State offices are those of Subdivisional Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Subdivisional Officer, Education, Block Development Office, Divisional Forest Office, etc. Besides these there is also the office of Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway.

The main industries of the town are basket-making, blanket-making and wooden furniture making.

The town has one Dak Bungalow, one Inspection Bungalow, one *Dharamshala* and one *Musafir Khana*. There are also hotels of poor standard for accommodation and refreshment. There are no youth hostels or hotels. Tourism could be developed with this town as a centre.

The town has one college, two higher secondary schools, two basic training schools, five middle schools and ten lower and upper primary schools.

The town has four libraries. On the average about 30 persons daily visit each of the libraries. The oldest library is the Sher Shah Park Library. There are about 4,000 books in this library. The town has one town club where indoor games are played and two children parks.

The town is electrified and about 3,472 houses have been electrified. There is one water tower in the town by which water is supplied in the houses and shops.

The town has one subdivisional hospital maintained by the State Government with three doctors including one lady doctor and the other staff. There is the provision of 46 beds (26 for males and 20 for females). There is also T. B. clinic and Maternity and Child Welfare centres attached to the hospital. The details will be found on 'Medical and Public Health' chapter.

The town has three post offices. There is also a telephone exchange with 158 connections.

The town has one Class I Veterinary dispensary, three slaughter houses and four liquor shops. It was observed that about 200 persons visit the liquor shops daily. In order to organise the sale of pure milk and improve the quantity of milk, one *goshala* has been started which is privately managed.

The town has about 30 grain-golas. About 40 to 50 labourers work in the gola of the wholesale dealers. The town has about 40 rice, oil and flour mills.

The important *mohallas* in the town are Gowrachni, Karansarai, Gandhiki, Neeur, Alamganj, Moburakganj, Lakariganj, Chowkhandi and Adam Khan-ki-Imli.

There is a temple of Sikhs in the town which is called *Gurujee Ka Bagh*. It is said that Guru Teg Bahadur, father of Guru Govind Singh visited Sasaram and stayed at the place now known as *Gurujee Ka Bagh*. There was one Phagumal who went to see Guru Teg Bahadur and requested him to visit his house which the Gurujee kindly accepted. When he reached the door of Phagumal which was so small as not to allow a man to enter straight but Gurujee being on horseback with a sikh flag in his hand entered the house, which is now known as the *Phagu Chacha Ki Sangat*. The foundation of *Bari Sangat* or *Purani Sangat* was laid by the same Guru Teg Bahadurjee*. The Sikhs of the town have been treated at length separately.

SAWATH.—A village in Durgawati police-station and close to the Grand Trunk road. The population during 1951 census was 1,300, i.e., 682 males and 618 females with 193 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 76, i.e., 74 males and two females. Its thana number is 108 and area is 1,161 acres. According to 1951 census the number of cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants was 820 and the number of cultivating labourers and their dependants was 332. Besides this, 57 were employed in commerce.

This village has a lower and upper primary school.

SHAHPURPATTI.—Headquarters of Shahpur police-station in Sadar subdivision is a village on Arrah-Buxar road. The nearest railway station for the village is Banahi on the main line of the Eastern Railway situated at a distance of 5 K.M. It trades mainly in rice and gram obtained locally and consumed locally. *Hats* are held here on Tuesdays and Saturdays. There is a R. C. Church, a hospital and a convent. There are schools and a number of shops.

SHER GARH.—Sher Garh is a natural hill fort about twenty-five miles away from Sasaram on the Grand Trunk Road part of which road could only be jeeped or trekked. It is sited amidst gorgeous scenery and the top of the rock has a natural rampart which has been well fortified by a number of bations and bulwarks. The ascent is steep and through jungles with a remarkable and typical fauna and flora. The nearest habitation is a small village, i.e., Simraul about one mile away. There are some beautiful gorges

* For further details on the Ashokan Edicts, rock-cut caves and inscriptions, ancient sites, forts, mosques, Muslim tombs, anks, wells, Turkish bath, Khanqah, Sikh temples, etc., please see *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963, pages 514—526.

through which the winding path leads. The top of hill commands a view of the distant range of hills and the valley of Durgawati. The fort, a wonderful piece of nature's handiwork, human skill and architecture, is now in ruins. It is a beauty spot but seldom visited. The main gate of the fort opens out into two large covered *dalans* supported by pillars both to the east and west and either of them could accommodate about 1,000 persons. The fort area is about six square miles.

The origin of this fort is a mystery. A casual remark of Francis Buchanan probably inspired by the name of Sher Garh has led to his doubtful theory that Sher Shah had built this fort. This theory appears to have persisted. Buchanan had found Sher Garh in ruins. He has described the fort and its famous underground halls at some details, but he has not made any mention of any inscriptions that he saw in the fort. Sher Shah was a pious and orthodox Muslim and his self-built tomb and other monuments at Sasaram and elsewhere have all got engraved inscriptions. His occupation of the ancient fort at Rohtas is amply borne by the mosques and *Idgah* there. It is intriguing that Sher Shah would build this fort. Sher Garh and would not leave any inscriptions. The type of architecture is also absolutely dissimilar from Sher Shah's tomb built by him.

At Sher Garh the drawings and scrolls are all on the conglomerate and this is certainly not typical about Sher Shah's legacy. The underground dancing hall at Sher Garh is also hardly in consonance with that sturdy and austere character which marks Sher Shah out from Humayon his rival. Sher Shah had a very brief span as a ruler. It might be that after capturing Rohtas Garh he turned his attention to the existing fort of Sher Garh as the second line of defence. Sher Garh is an ideal spot for this purpose in the circumstances of that period. It is at a remote corner and far from human habitation. The underground halls could be stored with foodstuff to last for months. There is an excellent underground well with a dome over it and the well has got a perennial water-supply being connected with some underground spring. From the top of Sher Garh, the approach of enemies could be visualised from a distance of about ten miles on every direction and the enemy could easily be routed while on its way through the zig zag ascent. It is quite possible that this fort existed from before and was the stronghold of the Rajput chieftains, a number of whom held Shahabad when Sher Shah came to power and Sher Shah had occupied it. It came to be known as Sher Garh because of Sher Shah's personality.

The top of the hill is now a mass of ruins. The ramparts and the bastions are decaying. The first gate will not stand its own for a long time and the beautiful broad courtyards are full of jungles and snakes. The buildings contain several large courtyards surrounded by four open galleries which are now falling into ruins

and open into the remnants of some closed rooms behind. The carvings on the pillars supporting the galleries have very delicate and artistic designs combining grace and imagination and are more artistic than the similar carvings at Rohtas Garh. The underground rooms inside the place constitute the most remarkable feature. One has to go down with the help of a petromax lamp or a powerful torch. There are superb scrolls on the conglomerate on the walls and no inscriptions at all. One room has a big *kund* or water reservoir round which there is a running verandah and under a vaulted roof. The *kund* is dried up during summer season. There is one room only which has a skylight. The remnants indicate very superior engineering skill.

Very little appears to have been done by way of excavation in this fort and it remains almost in the same condition which prompted the observation "Too little is known of this fort" in the list of Ancient Monuments published by the Bengal Government in 1896. Buchanan mentions:—"The accommodation for the ladies form a long castle on the summits of the small hill on the south side of the fort and when viewed from the north side have a grand appearance somewhat like the castle of Durham."

The Durgawati river flows just below the fort towards southwest between the two ranges of hills.*

SINHA.—One of the villages is Sinha in Shahabad district situated on the bank of the Ganga river and about 12 miles from Arrah, the district headquarters of Shahabad district. Sinha is a pretty big village consisting of several *tolas*. The houses are mostly thatched but there are quite a few tile-roofed or brick-built houses.

The people of the village could roughly be divided into three categories, first, poor and landless, second, cultivators and the third group would comprise cultivators-cum-merchants. The landless labourers depend on daily wages which is not always sufficient to maintain the family and they often get into debt particularly when any social obligations have to be met. The rate of interest was 12 per cent or more. They are jobless for about two or three months in every year. In cultivation, the farmers still use the same wooden plough, the spade and other agricultural implements of old type. The climate is dry, but the lands are fertile enough though sandy. The main crops are wheat, gram, pulses, etc., which are exported to other provinces. In dry season the cultivation of melon and water-melon is done on a large scale.

* For further details on the topography, the fortifications, the citadel and the palaces inside the citadel, please see *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar* by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1968, pages 533—536.

The farmers are not in favour of co-operative farming. Consolidation of holdings they do not like. They do not want to hear much of arguments in their favour but vaguely think that such ideas are not going to improve their condition. They do not also want any fixation or ceiling as a curb on land possession but they would rather prefer to have a ceiling fixation in the hope of getting further addition of lands. Some of them gave the opinion that 10 acres of land for a family of five persons would be quite sufficient for a decent living.

The district of Saran is on the other side of the river Ganga and Saran district grows very little of paddy. Whenever there is a scarcity, traders make an enormous profit by transporting grains in spite of embargoes, if imposed.

There is another dwindling class of people—the set or ex-zamindars and big farmers. Some of the ex-zamindars after the abolition of zamindari have migrated to the towns and are trying to rehabilitate themselves by taking to some business. There are very few big farmers but they have big *pucca* houses, livestock and keep servants.

The *ghats* are leased out. The charges for ferrying are 25 P. per maund of commodity, 25 P. per head and 1.50 P. per cattle, but in rainy days they charge 50 P. per head. There are several *ghats*. The village is well connected by two main roads, namely, Arrah-Sinha road and Sariya-Sinha road. They are partly metalled but are in bad condition. Buses which run from Arrah station to Sinha thrice a day are privately owned and are very much overcrowded. The buses are in a wretched condition. *Ekka* is still in use and the charges are high. *Palkis* are dying out because of the non-availability of palanquin bearers and charges which are now considered to be exorbitant. Sinha has a sizeable *bazar*. There are five big grain shops, 15 small grain shops, six cloth shops, five general merchants and some liquor shops. There are four primary and secondary markets inside and outside the village. They are Sinha *Bazar*, Mathmalpur-Sobra *Bazar* and Sariya *Bazar*.

There is not much of sociability among the three main castes of Rajputs, Brahmins and Ahirs. The Rajputs dominate and have influence in the village. There is groupism or casteism and any political event like elections, etc., act as a fillip to this groupism. There are also some Harijans and other Backward Classes and a few Muslim families. It is strange that there is no high school in the village. There are two upper schools, one for girls and another for boys. The rich people send their sons and daughters to Arrah for education. Culturally there is nothing in the village and it is stagnant. People amuse themselves with litigations and gossips. There are six temples and one mosque but the average number of people attending them daily is very small.

MOUJAMPUR.—The village lies at the extreme northern border of the Shahabad district by the side of the river Ganga which forms the natural boundary for the two neighbouring States of Bihar and U. P. It falls within the jurisdiction of Barahara police-station and is at a distance of 14 miles from Arrah.

Originally the village formed part of the Khawaspur mouza and it was situated in what is the main river bed now. This village had to shift several times with the change of the river course and the village boundary also changed simultaneously.

The Arrah-Sinha road (metalled) by-passes the village in the east at a distance of four miles. Regular bus services ply on this road six times a day. The Arrah railway station which is about 17 miles from the village is, therefore, easily accessible to the villagers. Another unmetalled Sinha-Belwania road passes through the heart of the village but is sadly neglected. Being situated on the bank of river Ganga the village enjoys good water communication. Boat is the usual means of transport. No regular ferry service is maintained.

There is also a post office which is situated in Moulighat, an integral part and a tola of the village.

The soil of the village is alluvial and very fertile. It is neither sandy nor clayey. The yield even without manures is very good.

People of many castes, but only of Hindu Community, inhabit this village like Brahmin, Mahapatra, Rajput, Kayastha, Kamkar, Mallah, Bin, Pareni, Yadav, Tantwa, Teli, Vaishya and Barbar. The Brahmins and the Rajputs are socially and economically far superior than any of the other castes. The leadership of the village also rests with the people of these two castes.

Inter-caste marriage is still a taboo in the village while inter-dinning in social and religious functions is seldom practised.

Nearly a decade back, an youth organisation was set-up in the village with members below 30 years of age. An ashram, *Gandhi Kutir* has been set up. A library "Biswa Bandhu Pustakalay" is attached to the Gandhi Kutir. Students of all castes above class VI and some adult population mostly attended the library which remains open in the evening. The ashram has made arrangements for the regular play of volley ball, organized *Bal Krira Kendra* and formed a *Kirtan* party.

Moujampur has six tolas, namely, Misir, Shanihanpur, Moujampur, Moulighat, Khawaspur and Chan Chapra. These six tolas are divided equally between the two mouzas, namely, Noorpur and Sohara. In 1957, the Sohara Gram Panchayat has been formed which serves the need of three tolas of Moujampur, namely, Moulighat,

Khawaspur and Chan Chapra along with the other villages. It has directed its activities towards the betterment of communication, medical facilities and the provision of drinking water.

The Noorpur Gram Panchayat serving the need of the rest of the tolas of Moujampur and other neighbouring villages has started functioning only from 22nd October, 1962.

The village has only a lower primary school which is managed by a single teacher. It has been taken over by the District Board in 1955. For going in for higher stages of education, one has either to go to M. E. School at Parsurampur or to the high school at Balua lying respectively at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and four miles from the village.

There is not a single qualified allopathic doctor though the services of one Kabiraj and one homoeopathic doctor are available inside the village. A health centre at Tribhuani which is at a distance of two miles from the village has been proposed.

The village does not grow any paddy. The main crops of the village are wheat, gram, barley, maize, *masur*, *arhar*, pea and *masuria* (millet). The cultivators appear to lay more stress on the *rabi* than on *kharif* crops* due to the frequent visitations of floods.

The villagers market their products to the *farias* and *beparis* who visit the village at regular intervals. They scarcely take their produce to the distant markets. The village is well served by four important cattle markets situated in Brahmpur, Bihta, Ainkhan, and Shripalpur, all lying within a radius of 28 miles from the village.

As a large section of the inhabitants of Moujampur do not possess any land of their own or do not have any other suitable occupation their labour is available for hire on daily and annual basis. Such labour is mainly drawn from the Bin and Mallah community. The demand for agricultural labour in the neighbourhood is relatively low as compared to its supply. So agricultural labour has to migrate.

The substantial cultivators, the traders and a few villagers with outside income are the main source of credit in the village, the Government and the co-operative credit society contributing fractionally nothing in this respect.

SONE BARRAGE PROJECT AT INDRAPURI.*

Introduction.

The idea of utilisation of water resources of the river Sone occurred for the first time in 1853, when Col. Dickens, the then Junior Engineer Officer of the Bengal Artillery, put forth proposals

* Contributed by Sri P. R. Guha, Chief Engineer, River Valley Projects, Bihar.

for storage of water of some of the hill streams in the Kaimore Range of South Shahabad for irrigation purposes. This was followed by another proposal in 1855 for smaller reservoirs. This included a canal from the river Sone at Bandu, below the junction of the Koel river. In 1861, Col. Dickens formulated plans and estimates for the construction of a weir across river Sone at Dehri with canals on either bank. This weir (which is known as Sone Anicut) with the entire Canal System was completed at a cost of Rs. 2.78 crores and the irrigation started in the year 1874. This scheme had envisaged irrigation of about 4.5 lakh acres of *rabi* land in a predominantly *rabi* growing belt of the Shahabad district on the west and Gaya and Patna districts on the east. But the assured supply of water made the cultivators turn their *rabi* fields into paddy and now paddy has become the dominant crop of the area. The existing Sone Canal System is irrigating about six lakh acres of *Aghani* paddy, 50 thousand acres of *rabi* and 20 thousand acres of hot-weather crops.

The existing anicut $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, extends through the entire width of the river. The excessive width causes heavy siltation on the upstream side. The canal head-regulators are not properly located, which result in heavy silt entry into canals, specially in the Main Eastern Canal. On this account, there is heavy recurring expenditure on silt-clearance and maintenance of the Sone Anicut.

The existing anicut floor is composed of boulder masonry founded on wells. It has a crest width of five feet to accommodate automatic falling shutters. The upstream and downstream glacis slopes are 1 in 3 and 1 in 12 respectively. It has been observed that losses during dry months due to leakage through the automatic falling shutters are of the order of 500 cusecs and those across the permeable weir are of the order of 2,000 cusecs. This itself speaks of the huge waste of natural water resources which could be utilised for the benefit of the people and nation. During the last 40 years, the remodelling of the anicut was examined several times. Finally it was considered that the anicut is no longer economical and technically dependable. Being about ninety years old, the present anicut has almost outlived its useful life. A similar anicut across the river Krishna in Andhra Pradesh suddenly gave way in September, 1952. In order to forestall such an eventuality which would spell disaster on a large tract of this State, it was decided to replace the existing anicut by a barrage about five miles upstream of Dehri.

The present proposal.

The Sone Barrage Project envisages the construction of the following:—

- (i) A barrage across the river Sone about five miles upstream of the existing anicut, with link canals on either bank

to connect the barrage with the existing Main Eastern and Main Western Canals. The cost of barrage and link canals is estimated to be about Rs. 11.83 crores.

- (ii) The remodelling of the existing Sone Canal System at a cost of Rs. 2.6 crores to make it capable of carrying extra water-supply which is likely to be available after the construction of barrage.
- (iii) High Level Canals on either bank at a cost of Rs. 6.05 crores to irrigate the areas lying of the existing Sone Canals Command. These canals are expected to bring about 1.9 lakh acres of paddy, 48 thousand acres of *Rabi* and 40 thousand acres of hot-weather crops under irrigation. This scheme is under consideration and has not yet been sanctioned.

The River Sone.

The river Sone, rises from the north-eastern slope of the Vindhya hills and flows northward through the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The course of the river is mainly through hilly tracts and it drains a catchment of 26,608 square miles at the Sone Anicut at Dehri in Bihar. After flowing for a length of about 130 miles in Bihar, it joins the river Ganga near Koilwar in the district of Shahabad.

The maximum observed discharge of the river Sone at the anicut is of the order of 12 lakh cusecs. This observed discharge fairly tallies with the discharge obtained by Dickens' formula which with a value of C-625 gives a discharge of 12.20 lakh cusecs. The design maximum flood discharge has been assumed equal to 13 lakh cusecs. Taking 20 per cent more than the maximum observed discharge, the super flood discharge has been taken equal to 14.3 lakh cusecs.

The barrage.

The proposed barrage is 4,616 ft. long as against the river width of 12,500 ft. at the site. The barrage consists of 60 spillway-bays and five undersluice-bays on the left and four undersluice-bays on the right. Each bay has a 60 ft. clear waterway. A 22 ft. wide road bridge will be provided over the barrage which will be connected with the Grand Trunk Road through the canal service roads on both banks. This will provide suitable by-pass to the National Highway near Dehri town.

The barrage is a gravity structure designed on Khosla's theory for design of weirs on permeable foundation. The undersluices have been proposed to be regulated up to 6.0 lakh cusecs, and for river discharges exceeding that both the spillway and undersluice

gates will be fully opened. The spillway and undersluice-bays have been designed for the intensity of discharges enhanced by 20 per cent to provide against any possible concentration of flow due to defective operation of gates and other unavoidable reasons like shoaling, etc. The intensity of discharge over the spillway and undersluice crest area 338 and 378 cusecs respectively without considering any concentration of flow. Alternative designs of Raft and Gravity sections were done in the Central Water and Power Commission and it was found that the Gravity section is cheaper by about Rs. 26 lakhs.

To maintain the flow of the river through barrage suitable guide banks have been provided on both banks. The shape, location and size have been designed on the basis of model experiments to ensure proper river training.

The Link Canals.

(a) *Western (left bank) Link Canal.*—This canal takes off from the left bank of the barrage, and runs for a distance of about 6.5 miles before merging in the existing main western canal. From its off-take to a distance of 3,000 ft. this canal runs in the river bed. This length is proposed to be protected by stone pitching. The remaining length is earthen. This canal is designed for 800 cusecs in its head reach. The full supply depth is 10 ft. and the bed width is 150 ft. in this reach. The earthen section has a bed width of 223 ft. and full supply depth of 9.5 ft. at the beginning, i.e., at a distance of 3,000 ft. from its off-take.

(b) *Eastern (right bank) Link Canal.*—This canal takes off from the right bank of the barrage and runs for a distance of about 6.50 miles before merging in the existing main eastern canal. From its off-take to a distance of 7,900 ft., this canal runs in the river bed. This length is proposed to be protected by stone pitching. The remaining portion of this canal is earthen. The canal is designed for 4,250 cusecs in its head reach. The bed width and full supply depth in this reach are 98 ft. and 8 ft. respectively. The earthen section has a bed width of 148 ft. and full supply depth of 8 ft. at the beginning.

Irrigation.

The Sone canals command a fertile agricultural area. The principal crops grown in the area are (i) paddy, (ii) Sugarcane, and (iii) *Rabi*. The study of rainfall figures of Sone command has indicated that the useful rainfall from the months of June to October in the worst year is about 16 inches against the optimum water requirement of 45 inches.

The annual irrigation expected from the project on completion is given below. This does not include High Level Canals.

Cropping pattern as per project report in lakh acres.

Cropping pattern as per suggestion of Agricultural Adviser in lakh acres.

Aghani paddy. Rabi. Sugar-cane. Aghani paddy. Barley paddy. Rabi. Wheat and Barley. Peas and Gram. Potatoes and vegetables. Sugar-cane.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Eastern Link Canal ..	2.93	0.63	0.64	1.90	0.09	0.33	0.12	0.06	0.07
Western Link Canal ..	6.53	1.37	1.16	5.69	0.27	1.10	0.36	0.18	0.22
Total ..	9.46	2.00	1.70	7.59	0.36	1.43	0.47	0.24	0.29

The figures for the High Level Canals stand as under.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Eastern High Level Canal	1.03	0.25	0.22	1.02	0.06	0.19	0.06	0.32
Western High Level Canal	0.84	0.22	0.20	0.87	0.04	0.16	0.06	0.27
..	1.87	0.47	0.42	1.89	0.09	0.35	0.12	0.59
Total ..								

SALIENT FEATURES.

A. *The River Flow.*

(i) Catchment Area ..	26,608 sq. miles.
(ii) Average annual rainfall in the catchment.	55 inches.
(iii) Maximum observed flood	12,00,000 cusecs.
(iv) Design Discharge ..	14,30,000 cusecs.

B. *The Barrage.*

(i) Width of river ..	12,500 ft.
(ii) Length of Barrage ..	4,616 ft.
(iii) Crest Level of Weir ..	RL. 341.00 ft.
(iv) Crest Level of Under-sluice.	RL. 339.00 ft.
(v) Average bed level ..	RL. 340.00 ft.
(vi) Pond Level ..	RL. 355.00 ft.
(vii) Design R.F.L. (maximum)	RL. 359.60 ft.
(viii) Maximum water level ..	RL. 363.58 ft.

• C. *Canal System.*(i) *Western Link Canals—*

(a) Length ..	6.5 miles.
(b) Gross command ..	12.76 lakh acres.
(c) Full supply discharge ..	7,883 cusecs.

(ii) *Eastern Link Canals—*

(a) Length ..	6.5 miles.
(b) Gross command ..	4.24 lakh acres.
(c) Full supply discharge ..	4,250 cusecs.

Details regarding proposed High Level Canals on both the banks are under examination.

(iii) *Additional Yield of Crops Annually—*

(a) Foodgrains ..	10.44 lakh mds.
(b) Non-foodgrains ..	97.50 lakh mds.

(iv) *Monetary Value—*

(a) Foodgrains ..	Rs. 138.64 lakhs.
(b) Non-foodgrains ..	Rs. 140.40 lakhs.

D. *Estimated Cost.*

Unit I—Appurtenant works of Barrage and Link Canals.	Rs. 1,182.66 lakhs.
Unit II—Remodelling of Sone Canals System.	Rs. 260.50 lakhs.
TOTAL	Rs. 1,443.16 lakhs.

Benefits.

(a) *Direct*.—The expected increase in National wealth in the shape of increased agricultural products are given below:—

(i) Monetary value of increase in yield.

	Main Eastern Canal.	Main Western Canal.	Total.
A. Foodgrains	Rs. 30.27 lakhs.	Rs. 108.37 lakhs.	Rs. 138.64 lakhs.
B. Non-foodgrains	Rs. 31.59 „	Rs. 108.81 „	Rs. 140.40 „

(ii) The expected additional yield of crops is as detailed below:—

A. Foodgrains	..	10.44 lakh maunds.
B. Non-foodgrains	..	97.50 lakh maunds.

(iii) On the basis of existing water rates prevalent in Sone Canal System, it is expected that annual revenue from irrigation will be of the order of Rs. 128.98 lakhs.

(b) *Indirect*.—In addition to the direct benefits described above, various indirect benefits detailed below are likely to accrue from the project:—

- (i) There will be increase in the value of land due to introduction of irrigation to the new areas. The new acres to be brought under irrigation mainly lie under the command of High Level Canals; only a small portion lies in the existing command. With the completion of High Level Canals it is expected that there will be an increase of about Rs. 36.58 crores in the value of land.
- (ii) *Increase in employment*.—Money value for this indirect benefit to the community cannot be worked out. There will be increased scope of employment due to increased cultivation and due to increase in National Wealth the standard of living of the rural population will rise and condition of livestock will improve due to better supply of fodder and water.

Progress of Work.

The work of construction of the barrage actually started from November 1962, although the work order was given to M/s Hindustan Construction Co., Ltd., sometimes in February, 1962. The construction firm utilised this period from February, 1962 to November, 1962 in construction of their camp buildings and establishing their labour colony and also for erecting the crushing and hatching plant,

etc. The construction camp for housing the supervisory staff of the department as well as access road to the quarry and other preliminary works were completed earlier.

The Civil Engineering portion of the barrage is likely to be completed by June, 1965 and supply and erection of gates by June, 1966.

High Level Canals.

The High Level Canals could not be sanctioned as yet as the State of Uttar Pradesh has now indicated that they cannot give any minimum guaranteed supply of water from Rihand dam, although initially they indicated that it may be possible for them to give a minimum guaranteed supply of 6,000 cusecs, on the basis of which the two High Level Canals were proposed.

In order to get the required supply for feeding the High Level Canals, it is proposed to construct a dam across North Koel River near village Kutku, which will not only make adequate supplies available for the two High Level Canals, but also will be able to irrigate about five lakh acres more in the dry districts of Palamau and Gaya if a weir is constructed across North Koel River near village Mohammadganj. This scheme is under submission to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Fourth Plan.

SORHA.—The village is situated on the Kaimur hills at a distance of about 15 miles from Adhaura, the block headquarters towards south and 51 miles from Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters. It has an area of 633.35 acres and 25 households with a population of approximately 130 persons.

There is an irrigational bundh in the village. There are four rural houses for the Adivasis and a drinking well in the village. This is an Adivasi village.

SURAJPURA.—Regarding Surajpura, the last *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) mentions:—"A village four miles north-west of Bikramganj, containing a dispensary, which was opened in July of 1904 and a post office. Population (1921) 2,908. The village is the headquarters of a Kayastha zamindari family, of which the late head, Raja Rajeshwar Prasad Singh, was noted for his public spirit and liberality. He has a worthy successor in the present Raja Radhika Raman Prasad Singh, who is the Chairman of the Shahabad District Board, while the Raja's younger brother, Kumar Rajivaranjan Prasad Sinha represents south Shahabad in the Legislative Council. The family is said to have come two hundred years ago from Mirzapur to Surajpura, where they built the existing Rajbari which Dr. Buchanan saw* in 1812."†

* *Eastern India*, Vol. I., page 415.

† *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 190.

In 1930 a high school and a library were opened. Both were named after Raja Rajeshwar Prasad Singh. The high school was upgraded to the standard of a higher secondary school in 1961. There are 27 teachers and 1,120 students. Raja Radhika Raman Prasad Singh, a noted literary figure left the Chairmanship in the year 1927. Kumar Rajivaranjan Sinha became the Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. He died in 1948.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Dawath police-station and Dawath Block. Its population according to the census of 1951 was 4,325 persons, i.e., 2,220 males and 2,105 females with 761 households.*

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. The main castes are Kayasthas, Brahmans, Mohammadans, etc.

The village has a post and telegraph office, a State dispensary with 20 beds, two lower primary schools, two upper primary schools and a higher secondary school. There is co-education in the schools.

There is a big library in this village named after Raja Rajeshwar Prasad Singh. There are about 2,500 books in this library. It was established in 1930. The daily readership is not large.

There are three big temples in the village. In front of the temples there is a big tank constructed by the Raj family of Suraj-pura. The tank has been useful to the villagers.

The village is electrified. There are about five flour mills in the village.

There is a statutory Gram Panchayat in the village. A weekly *hat* is held on Saturdays and Tuesdays.

The village has a grain market. The supply is local as well as from Patna and Arrah. Potato is imported from Bhadauli and Nasriganj. There are a large number of retailers and a few wholesalers. It deals in tobacco trade imported from Kesath, Muzaffarpur and Gazipur and it is locally consumed.

TELARI.—Under Chenari police-station of Sasaram subdivision is a village situated on Telari-Chenari road. It is a small trading place dealing in small quantities of agricultural produce obtained locally and consumed locally.

TELHAR KUND.—A water-fall at a distance of about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the village Karar on the Bhabua-Adhaura road is known as Telhar Kund. Due to the precipice it is difficult to go very close to the water-fall. The drop is about five hundred feet deep and the

* District Census Hand-Book of 1951, page 204.

water runs through a gorge. During the rains the water-fall carries some 50 feet wide stream of water, but is dry during the hot season. At the base of the fall there is a *kund* which contains water throughout the year. Just near the bottom of the fall where the *kund* has been formed, a *Sadhu* has made his abode in a hut. The scenery is very beautiful and is worth a visit. It is under the jurisdiction of the Adhaura Community Development Block.

TILOKHAR.—This village is at a distance of about six miles from Nauhatta. Its population according to 1961 census as supplied by the Block office is 1,278 persons. The area of the village is 1,224.95 acres. The village is inhabited by non-tribals. The main produce are paddy and chilli.

The village has one upper primary school, one library, one post office (at Parchha—about one mile from Tilokhar).

The Block has sunk 16 minor irrigation wells and one drinking well, and constructed one *Ahar*. Two drinking wells and four *Ahars* were also repaired by the Block.

TILOTHU.—In old *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), this village has been mentioned as 'Tilothu'* but in the *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951) it has been mentioned as 'Telathu'. Its thana number according to 1951 census, is 275 having an area of 2,368 acres and 672 number of occupied houses. The total population of the village is 3,870 souls (1,953 males and 1,917 females) out of which 417 persons (342 males and 75 females) have been enumerated as literate. There are one Lower Primary, one Urdu Lower Primary, one Urdu Upper Primary and one High Schools in the village.† There is also an inspection bungalow at the village. It is under the Sasaram police-station. The 1961 census figures are not available as yet (March, 1964).

The old *Gazetteer* (1924) gives the following account of the place:—"At Tilothu, a village half way between Sasaram and Rohtasgarh, is a mosque of the time of Aurangzeb, the date of which corresponds to 1677 A.D. The palace is, however, mentioned in older records, and from the inscription on a tomb, at the foot of Rohtasgarh (1638 A.D.), we learn that it was a part of the *jagir* of Ikhlas Khan, who was then the *kiladar* or commandant of the Rohtas fort. Here was the residence of the *kiladar*; in later years Raja Shah Mal lived here, where his descendants still reside. The history of the Tilothu estate has been given in Chapter XI. Babu Radha Prasad Sinha, the present holder of the estate, which is now under management of the Court of Wards, is sixth in descent from Raja Shah Mal. He still has in his possession the letter signed by

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 190.

† *District Census Hand-Book of Shahabad* (1951), page 232.

Hector Munro, written in August of 1764, which led to the surrender of Rohtasgarh; and the *sanad*, bearing the joint seal of Shah Alam and the Company, granting Haveli Rohtas in *jagir* to his ancestor."*

This estate has now vested in the State Government.

The place has a large market called Tilothu Bazar. A first class road passes through it from Dehri to Rohtas.

The place has a higher secondary school. The present high school is located in the old house of Sri Radha Prasad Sinha (ex-landlord). Besides there are a junior basic school, a middle school for girls, a District Board dispensary, a veterinary hospital, the office of the Rohtas Co-operative Development and Cane Marketing Union Ltd., a post and telegraph office and a railway station of the same name on the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway. The village is electrified.

There is a good recreation club called Tilothu Recreation Club with an expansive play ground in front of it. The Club has a radio set, a library with nearly two thousand books and a reading room. The family of the ex-zamindar continues to be a land-mark.

It is a large trading centre. It deals mainly in rice, wheat, gram, *khesari*, barley, mustard-seeds, groundnut, *gur*, chillies, mustard-oils and pulses, obtained locally and exported within the district. Cattle fair is held here on the occasion of *Kartik Purnima*.

Near about Tilouthu there is a number of rough wooden images suggesting the prevalence of Bir Kuar Cult among the *Ahirs*.

TUTRAHI.—The *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924) gives the following account of the place:—"About five miles west of Tilothu, where the Tutrahi, a branch of the Kudra river, leaves the hills, is a place of the same name sacred to the goddess Sitala. It lies at the head of a gorge half a mile long, where the stream falls over a sheer precipice 180 to 250 feet high, and collects in a pool at the bottom. High upon the rocks, on a small natural terrace, stands a small statue of Mahishamardini, or Jagaddhatri, as the goddess is called in an inscription close by. From this inscription (1158 A.D.) we learn that the Nayaka Pratapadhavala, a local chief of whom there are other records at Rohtasgarh and on the Tara-chandi rock near Sasaram, made a pilgrimage to the Tutrahi falls accompanied by his whole household, five female slaves, his treasurer, his door-keeper and his Court *pandit*. Other inscriptions, several centuries later, are found at the same place round the figure of a female deity rudely carved in the rock."†

* *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), pages 190-191.

† *District Gazetteer of Shahabad* (1924), page 191.

There have been many changes since the days of J. F. W. James. The fall has now become nearly extinct and the rivulet Tutrahi has dried up. Of course, during the rainy season the rivulet becomes lively and the fall starts. This makes it good picnic spot and people from within the district and outside visit this place. This is one of the best natural beauty spots in the district. The pool down below the fall has also dried up. The small statue of Mahishamardini or Jagaddhatri is there and the inscription engraved close by the statue is still present along with the inscription around the place.*

PLACE NAMES IN SHAHABAD DISTRICT.

On a personal investigation in the Sadar subdivision of Shahabad district, it was found that the names of quite a number of villages have special significance. The Rajputs form the predominant element in these villages. Many of the Rajputs of this district are family proud and mention their association with Kuar Singh. There are reasons to hold that some of the place names are associated with the military movements or the military ancestry of the villagers. It further appears that the names of some of the villages have slightly undergone a change and most probably within the last one century. Some details of the place names of twenty villages are given below:—

Serial no.	Old name of the village.	Correct name of the village.	Details of the correct name.
1.	Udwantnagar	Udwantnagar	The village is situated about five miles towards the south of Arrah, the District Headquarters. It is under Arrah police-station and Udwantnagar Development Block. The village is said to have been set up in the name of Shri Udwant Singh, an ancestor of Babu Kunwar Singh. The Garhwar Rajputs form the bulk of the population.
2.	Garha ..	Garha ..	A village in Sadar subdivision located about two miles west of Udwantnagar. It is a <i>tola</i> of Garhwar Rajputs and Harijans.

* For further details on the rock-cut and other images, inscriptions and forts, please see *The Antiquarian Remains in Bihar*, by Dr. D. R. Patil (Patna), 1963, pages 576—578.

Serial no.	Old name of the village.	Correct name of the village.	Details of the correct name.
3.	Sakhua ..	Shankhua ..	It is at a distance of 2½ miles towards south-east of Udwanthnagar and under Udwanthnagar Development Block. It is a <i>garh</i> . Bagwa Rajputs had come to this village and lived here. <i>Shankh</i> means 'Victory'. The villagers took active part in the 1857 struggle.
4.	Belaur ..	Balwar ..	It is under Udwanthnagar Development Block at a distance of 4 miles towards south of Udwanthnagar. <i>Balwar</i> means 'Strong' and indicates the toughness of the villagers. During 1857, the village was one of the battle fields. The legend of this village is that it was the <i>garh</i> of Raja Bawan who had constructed fifty-two ponds in the village. The remains of about 30 ponds still exist in the village.
5.	Seogar ..	Sewagar ..	It is about one mile towards east of Udwanthnagar and under Udwanthnagar Development Block. "Sewagar" means a place to welcome the guests. It is said that the "Kawachhania" Rajputs who form the bulk of the population have always been very hospitable.
6.	Kharwani ..	Kharawani ..	It is about 2½ miles towards east of Udwanthnagar and under Udwanthnagar Development Block. 'Kharawani' is composed of the words "khara+Aawni" means one who are frank and true to

Serial no.	Old name of the village.	Correct name of the village.	Details of the correct name.
			their words and refers to the Ujjain Rajputs who form the bulk of the population and took active part in 1857.
7. Narouni ..	Narwani ..		It is in Sandesh Development Block and situated at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles towards west of Sandesh. The "Bagwan" Rajputs form the bulk of the population. "Narwani" means "Nar" or "male" and suggest the inhabitants are manly and courageous. The villagers took active part in the military movement in 1857.
8. Kusere ..	Kushagre ..		It is about 4 miles west of Sandesh and under Sandesh Development Block. "Kushagre" is composed of two words, 'Kush+Agrey' means strong, brave and courageous like "kush" the son of God "Rama". The "Bagwan" Rajputs who form the bulk of the population and took active part in 1857 have apparently suggested the name.
9. Surni ..	Shurnih ..		It is about 2 miles towards west of Udwanthnagar and under Udwanthnagar Development Block. "Shur" means "the brave" and "nih" means the abode. The villagers proudly recall their ancestors taking part in 1857 movement.

Serial no.	Old name of the village.	Correct name of the village.	Details of the correct name.
10.	Bagwan ..	Bagiawan ..	It is about 8 miles towards north of Sandesh, the Block headquarters. The legend is that after the battle of "Haldhighati", the "kach-waha" and "Sukhar" Rajputs came to this place and settled. They called themselves to be "Bagi" or one who is prepared to accept a challenge. This village had taken active part in 1857 movement.
11.	Garahani ..	Garhani ..	It is situated at about 12 miles towards south of Arrah, the district headquarters and under Charpokhri Development Block. The village has an old <i>garh</i> or fort. The villagers took active part in the military movement. Some of the descendants of Kuar Singh's family live at this village.
12.	Semraon ..	Samraon ..	It is at about 2½ miles towards north of Charpokhari, the Block headquarters. "Samraon" means people who are always prepared for fighting. The villagers took active part in 1857.
13.	Lahthan ..	Lohthan ..	It is at about 4 miles towards west of village Piro and under Piro Block headquarters. The Ujjain Rajputs form the bulk of the population. Lohthan is composed of two words, i.e., "Loha" and "than". It means the place of the steel and refers to the

Serial no.	Old name of the village.	Correct name of the village.	Details of the correct name.
			bravery of the inhabitants. The villagers had taken share in 1857 and other movements and still contribute to the Police and Armed forces.
14.	Pitaro	.. Pitro	.. It is about six miles towards north of Sandesh, the Block headquarters. The word Pitro means those who make promise and are ready to fight to implement the promise.
15.	Nagri	.. Naagri	.. It is situated at about 2 miles towards north of Piro, the Block headquarters. The Bhumihar Brahmins and Nagbansi Rajputs form the bulk of the population in the village. It was one of the <i>Akharas</i> of Babu Kunwar Singh. Nagari means a town. The village was important even before the 1857 movement had broken out.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS.*

Adhaura Block.

This block was started on the 26th January, 1957 (Republic Day), as a Pilot Project and upgraded to Multipurpose Tribal Welfare Project on 1st April, 1957. It reached its stage II on 1st April, 1963. The area of the block is 394 square miles and covers 131 villages out of which 29 are unpopulated. The block is situated on the plateau of Kaimur hills. It coincides with the area of Adhaura police-station and is under the jurisdiction of Bhabua sub-division. The block headquarters is situated at Adhaura which is also the headquarters of the police-station of the same name and lies almost in the centre of the area.

It is bounded on the north by Bhagwanpur Block, on the south by Chainpur, Bhabua and Chanari police-stations of Bhabua sub-division, Bhawanathpur police-station of Palamau district, on the

* Some of the Blocks were personally visited for study. Appraisal reports have been given elsewhere.

east by Rohtas and Chenari Blocks in Sasaram subdivision and on the west by the Panumganj police-station of Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh and Chainpur police-station of Bhabua subdivision. The total population of the block according to 1961 census is 16,985, of whom 8,737 are males and 8,248 females. The number of households is 3,223. This gives a population of 43 persons per square mile and 166 persons (round number) per inhabited village when the density of population for the district of Shahabad as a whole, according to 1961 Census, is 730 persons per square mile. According to a survey made by the block authority in 1957, the population of the block was 14,746 of whom 9,038 were tribals. Hence according to that survey the percentage of tribals was 61. The tribals at that time consisted of:—*

Kharwar	..	..	..	7,463 persons.
Chero	..	..	..	533 „
Oraon	..	..	..	938 „
Korwa	..	..	..	104 „
TOTAL				9,038 „

There is no reason to think that the percentage of the tribals has been reduced.

The headquarters of the block is at Adhaura village which is at a distance of 36 miles from Bhabua town, the subdivisional headquarters, and is approachable by a steep fair-weather jeepable road opened in 1959. It is at a distance of about 46 miles from Bhabua Road Station of the Grand Chord Line of the Eastern Railway. The block has only one post office for the whole area. The post office is situated at Adhaura. It has no telegraph office of its own. It is served by the Bhabua Telegraph Office. It has telephonic communications with Bhabua, but the communications are liable to frequent interruptions. The postal communication is kept up by runner system—the distance being covered in three stages by different runners. The post office has been in existence for a long time. It now mostly carries letters, etc., of the block office in addition to the mails of the police thana.

No conveyance is available at or *via* Adhaura and people have to cover the distance from Adhaura to Bhabua on foot or on ponies. Similar is the case of communication with Chenari in Sasaram subdivision. Trucks ply from Varanasi to Adhaura to carry forest produce on seasonal forest roads. The villages in the block have no means of communication with each other or with headquarters of the block except by the hill pathways or, at places by seasonal

* The information has been supplied by the office of the Block Development Officer, Adhaura.

forest roads. This is one of the handicaps which preys upon the minds of Government servants posted in the area. The other handicap is lack of good drinking water. People have to depend mostly upon Chuans which are nothing more than hollows where water collects from seasonal rainfall or from springs. These are the handicaps that prevent the block authorities and other Government servants from carrying on their duties speedily and thoroughly as would have been possible with better facilities of communications and drinking water. This lack of means of communication and constant fear of wild beasts and venomous snakes, specially the black cobra, the deadliest of snakes, act as nightmare for the touring staff.

The area is very backward educationally. There are five Residential Basic Schools for Adivasis, four of which are Junior Basic Schools and one Senior Basic School. Junior Basic Schools are those schools which are intended to teach up to the standard of Class V and Senior Basic Schools teach up to Class VIII. The Junior Basic Schools are at Kuluhan, Bargaon, Athan and Sarki and the Senior Basic School is at Deori. Each of the Schools at Kuluban, Bargaon, Athan and Sarki provide 30 students with free education including food, lodging, etc., while at Deori such provision is for 75 students. Recently (1963) the State Government have started a Higher Secondary School with three teachers and with 20 students in Class VIII.

There is a State Allopathic Dispensary at Adhaura, one Ayurvedic Dispensary at Sarodag, a Homoeopathic Dispensary at Athan and Unani Dispensary at Jamuninar. Besides these there are three Health sub-centres, viz., at Chandherna, Khondhur and Marpa in the block.

Previously there were eight Training-cum-Production Centres in the block area but seven have died out leaving only one at village Deori having carpentry section only. But these Training-cum-Production Centres could be of no use to the trainees who have not taken up the profession learnt at these centres. There is one Tasar Seed Supply Sub-centre at village Sarodag. Rope-making and bamboo-wares are the only cottage industries in the block.

The markets for the people of this area are at Chenari in Sasaram subdivision (24 miles), Bhabua (36 miles) and Chutia in Sasaram subdivision (26 miles) from Adhaura. The only means of communication for trade and commerce are by bullocks and ponies.

The entire block area is covered with hills. On the plateau enclosed by these hills there are grasslands to which people from the plains send their cattle for grazing during the rainy season and bring them back on the termination of the season. The hills have dense forest and there are spots in this block which offer a fine scenery. The forests have many trees of economic value. The more important of the trees are *Khyr*, *Palas*, *Amaltas*, *Dhan*, *Chirunji*,

Kusum, Sal, Asan, Bamboo, Tend, Amla, Bar, Kadam, Arjun and Kendu. It also produces creepers and grasses of which *Mahwal*, a creeper and *Kusa, Bagai, Chiti* are important grasses which are used for rope-making and thatching roofs. The forests contain a large variety of animals. Tigers, bears and leopards abound. Deer of the kind *Sambhar, Nilgai and Kotar* are found on the plateau. Besides these, wild boar, hyena, jackal, fox, monkeys and hares also abound. Of birds, partridges, pea-fowl, *Kual*, jungle fowl, doves of various kinds, green pigeons, wood packers, owls, *bulbuls, shamas, mainas*, parrots, etc., also abound. The forests as well as the villages abound in deadly snakes.

Of the forests produce *Chirunji, Kendu* leaves and charcoal are exported from this area to markets of Uttar Pradesh.

The important agricultural products of this block are, paddy, wheat, gram, *kurthi, kodo, sawan, ramtil* and maize. But they are not sufficient for the local people who have to work as labourers or feed on jungle produce like *piar, mahua tend* for a certain period of the year.

The great difficulty that the farmers in the block have to face is lack of irrigation facilities.

There are two District Board Dak Bungalows in the block—one at Adhaura and the other at Karar. There are twelve Gram Panchayats in the block.

The total revenue demand, collection and percentage of collection since the inception of the block is given below:—*

Year.	Demand.			Collection.			Percentage of total collection.
	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1957-58	1,796.96	16,482.97	18,279.93	629.49	11,966.74	12,596.23	73.2
1958-59	5,848.00	16,688.69	22,536.69	4,791.72	15,514.78	20,306.50	90
1959-60	2,183.06	17,392.36	19,475.42	2,004.88	16,918.27	18,923.15	98
1960-61	22,467.04	23,124.34	45,591.38	20,199.48	22,005.77	42,205.25	92.6
1961-62	6,041.04	23,677.39	29,718.43	2,773.00	21,918.31	24,691.30	83
1962-63	6,031.69	24,282.36	30,314.05	6,031.69	24,282.36	30,314.05	100

* The figures have been supplied by the office of the Deputy Collector in charge of Land Reforms, Bhabua.

The following statement gives a synopsis of the organisation and activities of the block:—

- A. Name of the block—Adhaura.
Subdivision—Bhabua.
District—Shahabad.
Started in 1957.
- B. Area of the block—2,26,509 acres.
Villages—131 (unpopulated—29).
Population—16,985.
Households—3,697.

Organisation.

1. Project Executive Officer—1.
2. Assistant Project Executive Officer—Unfilled.
3. Gram Panchayat Supervisor—1.
4. Agriculture Extension Supervisor—1.
5. Animal Husbandry Supervisor—1.
6. Welfare Inspector—1.
7. Co-operative Extension Supervisor—1.
8. Social Education Organiser—1.
9. Lady Education Organiser—Unfilled.
10. Sub-Inspector of Schools—1 (unfilled).
11. Circle Inspector—1.
12. Medical Officer—1 (unfilled).
13. Village Level worker—12.
14. Soil Conservation Supervisor—Unfilled.
15. Local Auditor—1.
16. Gram Sevak—12.
17. Junior Statistical Assistant—1.
18. Overseer—1.

Agriculture.

(a) *Improved seeds distributed—*

- (1) Paddy—12,711 mds., for 15,543 acres.
- (2) Wheat—352 mds., for 813 acres.

(b) *Manures—*

- (1) Ammonium sulphate—285 mds., for 565 acres.
- (2) Superphosphate—147 mds., for 565 acres.
- (3) Other—19 mds., for 565 acres.

- (c) Compost Pits—2,816 mds., used 91,545 maunds.
Seed multiplication farm—Nil.

A. Animal Husbandry—

1. Artificial Insemination Centre	..	Nil
2. Bulls distributed	.. ..	29
3. White Boar distributed	.. ..	5
4. He-goats	.. ..	28
5. Birds distributed	.. ..	25
6. Eggs	.. ..	296
7. Pullets	.. ..	415

B. Treatment—

Veterinary Dispensary Class I at Adhaura	..	1
Class III (sub-centres)	.. ..	4

C. (1) Rinderpest	.. ..	21,862
(2) H. S.	.. ..	5,865
(3) B. Q.	.. ..	3,261
(4) Anthrax	.. ..	380
(5) Anti-biotic	.. ..	Nil

Animals treated in Veterinary dispensary sub-centres. 20,479

Irrigation—

- (1) (a) Percolation wells—3—Land irrigated—216 acres.
(b) Percolation wells—under construction—46.
(2) Boring tube-well—1 for 130 acres.
(3) Tank—Nil.
(4) Persian Wheel—Nil.

A. Health—

1. Health centre	.. ..	1
2. Health sub-centre	.. ..	3
3. Medicine Boxes distributed	.. ..	24

B. Patients treated—

1. Malaria	.. ..	143
2. Typhoid	.. ..	16
3. Dysentery	.. ..	169
4. Diarrhoea	.. ..	155
5. Measles	.. ..	Nil
6. Influenza	.. ..	5
7. Others	.. ..	18,320
8. Persons vaccinated	.. ..	33,851
9. Persons Inoculated	.. ..	26,824
10. Family Planning—No. of persons advised	..	27

Sanitation—

(1) (a) Drinking wells completed	..	..	18
(b) Under construction	..	..	33
(2) Wells repaired	..	..	11
(3) Soakpits	..	..	41
(4) Borehole latrines	..	..	2
(5) Trench latrine	..	..	Nil

Education—

(1) Lower Primary Schools	..	..	12
(2) Upper Primary Schools	..	..	22
(3) Junior Basic Schools	..	..	4
(4) Senior Basic School	..	..	1
(5) High School	..	..	1

Total educational institutions	..	..	40
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No. of students—

1. Total Boys	..	..	1,380
2. Total Girls*	..	..	283
3. Scheduled Castes and Tribes	..	..	1,104

*Scheduled Castes and Tribes getting scholarship—**

Boys	..	..	37
Girls	..	..	10
Harijan Adibasi hostels	..	..	5
Residential schools	..	..	5

Literates—

Males	..	..	..	1,675
Females	..	..	..	125
Library	..	..	..	26
Books	..	..	..	5,874
Natak Mandali	..	..	..	21
Community centres	..	..	..	78
1. Gram Panchayat	..	..	..	12
No. of village under Gram Panchayat	..	..	..	131
2. Work of Gram Panchayat—				
Schools	..	..	..	13
Community Hall	..	..	..	7
Panchayat House	..	..	..	1
Chuan	..	..	..	5
Wells repaired	..	..	..	21
Roads repaired	..	..	..	19½ miles.
Roads constructed	..	..	..	14½ miles.
Soakage pits	..	..	..	46
Compost pits	..	..	..	130
Housing for Scheduled Castes and Tribes.			Scheduled	23 constructed.

10 Rev.

Co-operative Societies—

1. No. of Societies	39
2. Total no. of members	1,140
3. Total share capital	Rs. 81,391
4. Loans advanced	Rs. 71,478
5. Loans repaid by the members	Rs. 56,782

Communications—

1. New roads constructed by the block ..	72½ miles.
2. Old roads repaired	39 miles.
3. Culverts constructed	46

Industries—

1. Carpentry centre (training-cum-production)	1
2. Value of articles sold by the centre ..	Rs. 8,146.47
3. Grain-golas	2

Total expenditure up to date (31st October, 1963)—

	Rs.
1. Block Headquarters	7,52,283.78
2. Agriculture	68,045.94
3. Veterinary and Animal Husbandry ..	91,899.00
4. Co-operative	1,36,392.13
5. Irrigation	65,210.00
6. Health and Rural Sanitation ..	1,36,442.11
7. Education	47,233.00
8. Social Education	83,934.18
9. Communication	2,33,602.00
10. Rural Arts and Crafts Industries ..	2,21,615.15
11. Housing for staff	1,34,673.84
12. Miscellaneous Survey Research ..	1,050.00
13. Rural Housing	98,967.00
14. Suspense	25,882.43
TOTAL	20,97,170.56

Arrah Block.

This block with 130 villages was opened on 2nd October 1956. Its area is 42,939 acres. Four villages have been transferred to Uttar Pradesh. There are 20 Gram Panchayats and 12 *halkas*. The population of the block in 1961 is 1,51,184 with 24,035 households.

Arrah, the block headquarters, is well connected both by roadways and railways. The block has constructed the following *katcha* roads:—

- (1) Arrah-Mahuli to Bheldumran Road.
- (2) Arrah-Sinha to Pipra Jaipal Road.
- (3) Arrah-Salempur Udaypur Road.
- (4) Jamira-Alipur Road.
- (5) Dhamar Road.
- (6) Arrah-Salempur Road to Arrah-Mahuli Road *via* Banaili.

There are about 15 villages that have been electrified. There are many temples and mosques in Arrah and some of the villages. This block has put in 64 irrigational wells and 19 tube-wells. The cottage and small-scale industries in this block are carpentry and leather industry. Large *melas* are held at Dhamar and Singhikala. *Hats* are held at Izari, Hematpur, Dhobhan and Dhaman villages. The villages Sundarpur Barja, Izari, Jamira and Dhamar have a population of more than 2,000 persons.

There are District Board Dispensary at Jamira, *Ayurvedic* Dispensary at Shukulpura. There is an Inspection Bungalow at Salempur. There is a library at Dhamar village.

There are 33 lower primary schools, 14 upper primary, five junior basic, two senior basic, nine middle and two high schools in this block.

Barhara Block.

The Barhara block is one of the constituent units of the Sadar subdivision of Shahabad. It is named after the village Barhara as is the police-station but the headquarters of the block administration is located in the village Pararia-Semaria which is almost contiguous to the village Barhara. Formerly a part of Udwanatnagar, Barhara block as a separate unit was inaugurated on 2nd October, 1957.

Barhara has a riverine contour; and streams flow in criss-cross fashion throughout the area though they mostly dry up with the retreat of the monsoon or are reduced to small water-pools. The two main rivers are the Ganga and the Sone. The former runs almost parallel to the northern boundary of the block across which the districts of Chapra sprawls; while the eastern boundary is flanked by the river Sone, which effects a junction with the river Gunga at Bishunpur-Bindgawan—the easternmost point of this block. Thirty-three miles long from Bindgawan in the east to Piparpati in the west with an area of 64 square miles, the Barhara Block has according to the 1951 Census a population of 85,008 persons (40,236 men and 44,772 women) distributed over a total number of 56 inhabited villages. In six villages, namely, Babura, Ekwana, Pharahada, Saraiya,

Gundi and Sinha the population numbers above 2,000. However, the population is wholly homogeneous, there being no tribals in the part. The villages have been grouped together into nine *Halkas* for the purposes of revenue administration whose total annual revenue amounts to Rs. 2,48,948.39 (inclusive of Cess plus Miscellaneous, Education Cess) with an average of 80 per cent collection recorded in the last four years.

Of historical remains or sites, the Barhara Block has none; though names of certain villages are suggestive of having had historical associations, like "English-chain" a village which is commonly supposed to have been an Army Cantonment of the East India Company during 1857. There is no church nor are there any mosques or temples of antiquity, although there is still at village Gundi a fairly old temple of "Rangnath" surrounded by ageing and crumbling houses that testify to the feudal (Zamindari) prosperity the village had once known.

Comparatively speaking this area is not as happy in its facilities for communication as are the area of the southern Shahabad partly because of its sandy soil and partly because of the mild degree of flood which visits this part almost every year. The Block has fair-weather roads which connect every village; the country-side is dotted with Post and Telegraph Offices as with scores of schools. There are two hospitals (at Manichapra and Gaziapur), three medical sub-centres (at Bishunpur, Batua and Pharna) and four Veterinary sub-centres (at Bishunpur, Pharna, Saraiya and Balua) and one Class I Veterinary dispensary (at block headquarters), all run by the block administration. From the district headquarters Arrah Town major roadways move towards the north into Barhara Block. Both begins at the Gangey bridge. The first one leads north-west to Saraiya—an important village of the block—where a line branches off further west to Sinha *via* Gangher, while the main trunk continues further north for a mile or so where it bifurcates into two—one leads straight to Gaziapur, the other leads to Sinha. The second Trunk from the Gangey bridge moves north-east passes through block headquarters and terminates at village Ekwana. This road is popularly referred to as Arrah-Ekwana-Chapra road. Villagers often refer to the good old days with nostalgia when it was a regular commercial route between Arrah and Chapra. It is, however, interesting to note that in this part there is none of those staging posts or dak bungalows; so common in other parts. This may perhaps be due to the proximity of this area to both the district headquarters. So that it was never thought worthwhile to break one's journey at Barhara.

The geographical features and contour of the block area have naturally shaped the agricultural pattern of Barhara. Paddy or allied *aghani* crops are not grown because of the annual floods (which otherwise cause no damage) though the rich silt deposited

every year yields a fine harvest of "rabi" crops. The bulk of labour is primarily agricultural and broadly speaking is wholly "unskilled" for unlike the southern Shahabad, industry has made no headway here. The scope of mobility of labour and immigration amongst the agricultural labour is, therefore, limited—limitation from which the lower-middle and upper-middle class people are remarkably free. Members of this middle class constitute a bulk of the 'wage-earning' and 'service-holder' class. However, a certain degree of immigration does occur amongst the agricultural labour. This immigration is seasonal and of purely temporary character. Every year as soon as the 'rabi' operations are over a great trek from the paddy growing areas of the south begins; peasants and landless labourers cross over to the south to join the army of harvesters. The harvesting being over they return to their villages. So the seasonal immigration is to be attributed to seasonal unemployment, the propinquity and the ready availability of better paid job-markets (agricultural) that does not require specialised or skilled labour. It has no perceptible adverse incidence on the local economy. The higher earnings of the labour resulting from the imperfect elasticity of supply, during the timelag between the migration to and return from job-markets is, however, temporary. In final analysis, it would seem that the agricultural pattern (producing only one seasonal crop *rabi*) which does not ensure continuous employment is chiefly responsible for the seasonal immigration. Efforts are being made to see if a new cropping pattern, especially cash-crops may be introduced to the advantage of the cultivators. Here and there patches of sugarcane (flood resisting) are growing up and it is hoped that tobacco would be introduced shortly. It is generally agreed that the agricultural economy would be immensely rejuvenated, indeed, revolutionised, if a crop could be harvested before the onset of floods. An essential prerequisite for such contingency is availability of large-scale irrigational facilities. Details of the important projects undertaken are stated in Appendix I.

APPENDIX I.

Total number of Drinking wells undertaken	211	} *39,794.07
Total number of Drinking wells completed	118	
Total number of Irrigation wells undertaken	338	} †92,144.27
Total number of Irrigation wells completed	172	
Tube-wells (hand)	50	
Borings	5	(Progress)

*Includes hand tube-well.

†Includes boring.

APPENDIX 2.

List of *Hats*, etc.

Sohra Bazar—Village Sohra.
 Nathmalpore Bazar—Village Nathmalpore.
 Matukpore Bazar—Village Matukpore.
 Gundi Hat—Village Gundi.
 Saraiya Bazar—Village Saraiya.
 Sinha Mela—Village Sinha.

Bhabua Block.

This block was started in 1956. It consists of 289 villages with an area of 81,942.66 acres. There are 24 Gram Panchayats. The population of the block according to 1961 Census is 87,320 persons with 17,662 households.

This block headquarters and about 15 villages are electrified. 50 drinking wells and 39 tube-wells for irrigation purposes have been sunk by the block.

There are about 38 temples and six mosques in this block. The cottage industries in this block are carpentry, blacksmithy and carpet-weaving.

There are two *melas* in this block, one is held at Seon village and the other at Miriyan.

The communication of this block is bad. This block has only eight miles of *pucca* road running from Bhabua to Ratwar and four miles from Bhabua to Betari. There is one Subdivisional Hospital and one Dak Bungalow at Bhabua.

There is a Class I Veterinary dispensary at the headquarters and three field dispensaries.

There are 40 lower primary, 15 upper primary, 15 junior basic, four senior basic, five middle and two high schools in this block.

Bhagwanpur Block.

The block was started in October, 1957 with headquarters at Bhagwanpur. It is situated at a distance of seven miles to the south of Bhabua, the subdivisional headquarters and connected with *kutchha* roads on the way to Adhaura.

The block covers an area of 159.11 square miles with 272 villages (populated 186 and unpopulated 86) having a total population of 58,247, i.e., 29,521 males and 28,726 females according to the statistics of 1961 as supplied by Bhagwanpur Block Office. There are 10 Village Level Workers under the block, hence on an average, there are 27 villages per Village Level Worker.

The position regarding the staff in 1963 (December) is as follows:—

Block Development Officer—Sanctioned one, in position one, since October, 1957.

Medical Officer—Sanctioned two, in position one.

Agriculture Extension Supervisor—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Soil Conservation Extension Supervisor—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Animal Husbandry Extension Supervisor—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Co-operative Supervisor—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Gram Panchayat Supervisor—Sanctioned one, in position nil.

Local Auditor—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Industrial Extension Supervisor—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Overseer—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Sub-Inspector of Schools—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Junior Statistical Supervisor—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Circle Inspector—Sanctioned one, in position one.

Gram Sevaks—Sanctioned 18, in position 18.

Gram Sevikas—Sanctioned two, in position nil.

Programme of Development.

Agriculture.—The main crops in the area are paddy, maize and jowar. As a result of development programme, the Japanese method of paddy cultivation and use of chemical fertilizers have been introduced.

The Community Development Block has tried to improve agriculture by supplying improved seeds. With the help of the Village Level Workers, the villagers also prepare compost and apply them to their fields.

It may be noted that the primitive practices of cultivation which were adopted by the cultivators have received changes due to agricultural demonstration which is conducted in every *kharif* and *rabi* seasons. Till 1963, 283 agricultural demonstrations have been conducted. During 1962 the programme of shadow package was taken up, by 339 cultivators in 669 acres in 58 villages and the villagers have also appreciated the use of improved seeds. Till 1963, 295 maunds of improved seeds and 57.83 tons of chemical fertilizers have been provided by the block to the villagers, 1,389 tons of compost was prepared by the cultivators.

The soil conservation work has also been started in the block since April, 1963. It was reported that 648.57 acres of lands have been put under soil conservation measures in villages Tori, Deo-saranak, Makrikhoh, Papahara, Masahi, Dhangara, Nawadih, Chuon, Rajbandhua, Jaipur, Paura, Matar, Ramgarh, Gobasachh, Rampur, Kurwa and Basuhari and Rs. 7,029.00 was spent in executing the work.

Animal Husbandry.—The block has a dispensary in charge of an Animal Husbandry Extension Supervisor and three field dispensaries under one Live-stock Supervisor. In addition to curative treatment, various preventive measures are being taken through inoculation against infectious diseases. With regard to the programme of development of animal husbandry, the Block had supplied six *Hariana* bulls, 70 birds, 837 pullets and 595 eggs in different villages. There is also an Artificial Insemination Centre at Bhagwanpur where 2,623 cows and 440 buffaloes had been artificially inseminated since the inception of the block.

The diseases from which animals generally suffer are rinderpest, haemorrhagic septicaemia, anthrax, blackquarter, foot and mouth diseases. The Animal Husbandry Department deals both with the treatment and prevention of cattle diseases. The affected animals are medically treated wherever possible. Mass inoculation is done against those diseases for which specific vaccines are available.

The figures below supplied by Bhagwanpur Block will show the vaccination against these diseases since the inception of the block till 1963:—

1. Rinderpest	..	..	..	4,034
2. Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	..	..	..	2,284
3. Anthrax	..	..	..	6,041
4. Blackquarter	..	..	..	2,006

Statement of cases treated at the veterinary dispensary, Bhagwanpur is given below:—

1. Cases treated	..	..	..	4,112
2. Number of deaths	..	..	..	51

The local draught animals are small in size and of very limited capacity. The cows are generally of short stature and there is no system of milking them and using milk and milk products.

Irrigation.—412 percolation wells, 27 boring tube-wells, two tanks and 111 persian wheels have been provided by the block in villages. These irrigate about 2,893 acres of land. No major or medium irrigation schemes have been either taken up or completed by the block.

During discussion with the Block Development Committee it was ascertained that the tribal people or *Harijans* are not in a position to pay 50 per cent of the cost towards the Irrigation Schemes and they urged the contribution should be lowered.

Communications.—The Block headquarters is connected with the subdivisional headquarters by a *kutch*a Bhabua-Adhaura road. Five *halkas* are reported to be connected with the Block headquarters by *kutch*a and fair-weather roads. The Block has constructed 30 miles of *kutch*a road within and outside the village and 21 miles of roads have been repaired. 120 culverts have also been constructed by the block. 107 villages out of 272 are accessible by Jeep.

Health and Sanitation.—With the opening of the Block, one State dispensary at Bhagwanpur and three health centres at Ramgarh, Mashī and Rampur have been started. The table below supplied by Bhagwanpur Development Block will show the number of patients treated in block dispensary till 1963:—

Name of diseases.				No. of patients treated.	Death.
1. Dysentery	..	..	..	1,587	Nil.
2. Diarrhoea	..	..	..	345	2
3. Malaria	..	..	..	118	Nil
4. Typhoid	..	..	..	24	1
5. Measles	..	..	..	5	Nil
6. Influenza	..	..	..	1,354	Nil
7. Others	..	..	..	49,477	Nil

92,088 persons were vaccinated and 78,389 persons were inoculated till 1963. The persons are vaccinated or inoculated several times.

Secondly, to facilitate the villagers, 223 drinking wells have been provided and 37 old drinking wells have been repaired. Besides, 154 soakage pits, 605 borehole latrines and 307 trench latrines have been constructed in the villages under the block.

Education.—Before the inception of the Block, there were 17 lower primary schools, eight upper primary schools, two middle schools and one high school in the villages but after the opening of the block, 60 more primary schools, four junior basic schools, one senior basic school and one high school have been started. The jurisdiction of the Sub-Inspector of Schools is confined to the block and he is placed in the Block as a member of the development team.

Co-operative.—42 Multipurpose Co-operative Societies are functioning with 565 members. Rupees 32,199.00 has been advanced as agricultural loan out of which Rs. 28,882.00 has been realised. It was stated that loans are given only towards production items and not towards "unproductive" requirements such as marriages, etc.

Cottage Industries.—Three Training-cum-Production centres including one weaving centre at Rampur, Tori, Masaha are functioning.

Gram Panchayat.—There are 19 *gram panchayats* existing in the Block. Each *panchayat* covers on an average 2,500 population. Out of 19, 14 *gram panchayats* have been entrusted with the revenue rent collection work. Till 1963, five schools and one *panchayat* house have been constructed by the *gram panchayats* under the block.

Market.—There is no market or *hat* in the block. There are small retail shops which supply the daily needs of the people. For other requirements the villagers go to Bhabua market.

The statement below supplied by the Subdivisional Office, Bhabua will give the revenue demand and collection of Bhagwanpur Block from 1957-58 to 1962-63:—

Demand (in rupees).

Year.				Arrear.	Current.	Total.
1957-58	..	..	..	18,845.20	1,39,848.44	1,58,693.64
1958-59	..	..	..	96,602.54	1,53,485.91	2,50,088.45
1959-60	..	..	..	44,367.42	1,65,960.44	2,10,327.86
1960-61	..	..	..	2,04,286.21	1,98,221.63	4,02,507.84
1961-62	..	..	..	2,13,749.40	2,01,436.51	4,15,185.91
1962-63	..	..	..	1,59,034.86	2,02,343.30	3,61,378.16

Collection (in rupees).

Year.				Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Percentage of total collection.
1957-58	..	..	..	12,333.77	73,967.16	86,300.93	55
1958-59	..	..	..	85,307.84	1,36,893.56	2,22,201.40	89
1959-60	..	..	..	24,143.66	1,19,100.62	1,43,244.28	68
1960-61	..	..	..	71,813.97	1,29,650.96	2,01,464.93	49
1961-62	..	..	..	1,25,589.38	1,33,425.80	2,59,015.18	63
1962-63	..	..	..	1,56,250.14	1,98,231.83	3,54,481.97	98

The statement below supplied by Bhagwanpur Block will show the expenditure on the various items since the inception of the block up to October, 1963:—

	Rs.
(1) Block Headquarters	3,22,381.48
(2) Animal Husbandry and Agriculture ..	24,753.69
(3) Irrigation, Reclamation and Social Conservation.	1,83,808.24
(4) Health and Rural Sanitation ..	69,780.80
(5) Education	24,621.98
(6) Social Education	47,040.87
(7) Rural Arts and Crafts	12,194.96
(8) Communications and Housing ..	25,769.20
(9) Miscellaneous	17,623.74
TOTAL ..	7,27,974.96

Bihea Block.

The area of this block is 72 sq. miles and there are 99 villages. 66 of the villages are populated and 33 are non-populated. The block was started in April, 1955.

The Project Executive Officer-cum-Circle Officer of this block has reported that about 75 per cent of the villages have already been electrified. It is reported that a large number of new wells have been completed and old wells repaired. For improving irrigational facilities a number of new irrigation wells have been constructed while a number of old wells have been repaired. There are a number of State tube-wells propelled by electricity within the block area. A little area of the south-west of the block is also irrigated from some of the distributaries of Sone Canal.

There are 21 Gram Panchayats in this block. The Project Executive Officer-cum-Circle Officer has, however, reported that there has not been much enthusiasm in the *Gram Panchayats* in fulfilling the ideas under which they have been instituted.

Paddy, maize and wheat are the main crops. Gram, *Arhar* sugarcane and vegetables are also produced. About 50 per cent of the land under cultivation yields double crops. There is a seed multiplication farm of 25 acres since 1956. There is some use of fertilisers.

There are a number of temples and mosques within this block. There is no church. Of the temples, the one of "Mahthin Dai" at Bihea proper has a religious background. It is said that one Raja

Rampal Singh was a tyrant and used to compel every newly wedded bride to pass her first night with him. Mahthin Dai who comes from village Sikaria refused to obey him and this resulted in a fight in which the tyrant Raja was killed. The bridegroom was also killed and Mahthin Dai performed *Satee*. From then she is being worshipped.

The tomb of Makhdoom-Sarfuddin-Aleha-Rehmat about 1½ miles north-east of Bihea has also a religious background. It is said that this saint passed 12 years of his life in a jungle in Bihea. Once he felt hungry and was searching for food. He came across a cowherd and requested him for milk. The cowherd regretted that none of his animals was a milch cow. On this the *Fakir* made an eccentric suggestion that one of the heifers should be milched. This was done and the heifer yielded milk.

A number of cottage industries—Smithy, pottery, carpentry, basket-making and rope making exist in different parts of the villages. Blanket weaving and shoe making are better placed.

Three weekly *hats* are held at Ranisagar and Barahi. The weekly *hat* at Bihea is rather important. Bi-weekly *melas* are also held in the temple near Sati Mahthin Dai. One yearly fair is also held near the temple of Makhdoom Saheb. Bihea is a famous business centre for grains, goods and vegetables. A big cattle market is held on every Sunday.

The main line of the Eastern Railway passes through the southern portion of this block and there are three stations within this area. The block is well connected with buses. Other vehicles like *ekkas*, rickshaws and bullock carts are plenty.

Bihea, Ranisagar, Kalyanpur, Kateha, Koriya, Gaha and Ossai villages within this block have a population of 2,000 and above.

There is one dispensary at Bihea proper and three health sub-centres in different villages. There is one class I dispensary at Bihea and three veterinary sub-centres in three other villages. Bihea has a Dak Bungalow.

Bikramganj Block.

This block was started in 1962 with its headquarters at Bikramganj. Its area is 50,740.82 acres with 149 villages. Its total population according to the census of 1961 is 77,948 with 8,612 households.

The block headquarters is electrified and electrification work has been done in about ten villages. The block has constructed 17 drinking wells and about ten irrigational tube-wells.

There are 53 lower primary, 22 upper primary, one senior basic, seven high and two miscellaneous schools in this block. The total number of school going boys and girls is 8,040.

So far as communication is concerned, the block headquarters is well connected with rail and road. The Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway runs through the Bikramganj town.

The important cottage industries in this block are carpentry, blacksmithy, basket-making, etc.

Brahampur Block.

This block comprising of 105 villages came into existence in 1962 as a pre-extension block. It has an area of 83.1 square miles with a total population of 95,080 persons. It is under Buxar subdivision.

There are 22 Gram Panchayats. The current demand including rent cess, education cess and miscellaneous in 1964 is Rs. 3,29,406.62. There are several schools and co-operative societies in this block.

A big religious-cum-cattle fair is held at the block headquarters (Brahampur) in the months of *Falgun* and *Baisakh*. The fair lasts for about a fortnight. Thousands of people congregate here.

Buxar Block.

Buxar block has an area of 96 sq. miles with 163 villages and a population of 89,917 when the block was started. The main occupation of the population is agriculture. The canals and tube-wells are the main source of irrigation.

A number of villages specially on Arrah-Buxar and Buxar-Chausa roads have been electrified. For rural water-supply a number of drinking wells have been constructed and a number of old wells repaired. For irrigation purposes a number of irrigation wells have been constructed and others have been repaired.

The block has been taken under the Intensive District Agricultural Programme commonly known as the Package Programme. With the implementation of the Package Programme it is expected that there will be a larger agricultural output.

The temple of Ahalya at a village Ahirauli has a religious background. Ahalya was the wife of the sage Gautama Muni. Charitarban area of Buxar town is taken to be the training ground of Shri Ramchandra. The town of Buxar has a great religious tradition and has been separately dealt with. Buxar town is on the border of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and there is a remarkable turn-over of various agricultural products particularly rice, wheat, gur and vegetables. The other big trade centres in the block are Buxar, Chausa and Akharpur gola. Buxar and Chausa have important *hats* and *melas*. The important *melas* at Buxar town are Makar Sankranti *mela*, Bisua *mela*, Mauni *mela*, and Dashara *mela*. *Melas* are also held at Ahirauli, Nadaon, Bhabuar, Nuaon, Charitarban.

Thousands of people collect at the *mela* grounds and usually have a dip in the Ganga river. There is a good turnover of various kinds of merchandise at the *melas*. Regarding communication there is a first class metalled road between Buxar and Chausa (eight miles) on the west and Buxar to Dalsagar (six miles) on the east. The metalled road known as Buxar-Itarhi road to the south of Buxar is in a very bad condition. There is a canal road which covers about seven miles of the block area. There are a number of District Board and Local Board *Kutcha* roads in the interior which can be used only in the fair weather. There are three railway stations of the Eastern railway, i.e., Baruna, Buxar and Chausa within the block.

The villages with a population of 2,000 and above in Buxar block are Chausa, Mahdah and Baruna. There are Dak Bungalows at Buxar and Chausa and also an Inspection Bungalow at Buxar. Chausa is historically important as there was a battle between Humayun and Sher Shah. Katkauli is important because there was a battle between the English and Sirajuddaulah in 1764.

Chainpur Block.

This block with 177 villages was opened in 1962. Its area is 178 square miles. There are 17 Gram Panchayats. The population in 1961 is 62,504 with 10,602 households.

There are 15 villages that have been electrified.

The important *melas* of this block are Harsu Brahm *mela*, Madurna Devi and Karjimal Bakhari *mela*. A large cattle *mela* is held at Kuriachak.

The villages Chainpur, Amawan and Hatta have a population of about 2,000 persons. There is one State dispensary at Hatta-Kharigswan. There are an Inspection Bungalows, one at Jagdahwa of the Irrigation Department (where there is a dam) and the other at Karkat Garh of the Forest Department.

There is a Veterinary dispensary at Chainpur.

This block has put in 68 drinking wells and ten irrigational wells.

There are 42 lower primary, ten upper primary, three middle, one senior basic, one high and three miscellaneous schools. There are five libraries in this block with poor readership.

Charpokhari Block.

This block was started as a Pre-Extension stage on 2nd October, 1961 and was upgraded as Class I stage in October, 1962. This block has 110 villages and an area of 34,606 acres. There are 23 unpopulated villages. The population according to the census of 1961 is 54,048 with 7,300 households.

Blanket weaving, carpentry, blacksmithy are the cottage industries in this block. As regards communication, this block is well connected with Arrah and Sasaram. Charpokhari is near Arrah-Sasaram road.

The villages Pasaur, Garhani, Nagri and Semraon have more than 2,000 population.

This block has one District Board dispensary at Semraon. There are two Dak Bungalows, one at Chandi and the other at Garhani. 93 wells and two tube-wells for irrigation purpose have been sunk by the block.

There are 48 lower primary, eleven upper primary, one junior basic, three middle and three high schools in this block.

Chenari Block.

This block was started in 1955. There are 155 villages and 20 Gram Panchayats in this block. The total area of this block is 60,258.77 acres. The total population according to 1961 census is 41,656 with 6,601 households.

This block has sunk about 32 tube-wells for irrigation purposes and 85 drinking wells.

There are a State dispensary at the block headquarters and three health sub-centres in different villages. There is also a class I Veterinary dispensary at the block headquarters.

There are 13 lower primary schools, three upper primary, one junior basic, one senior basic, three middle and one high schools in this block. The total number of school-going students is about 7,000.

There are about 160 co-operative societies and the total number of the members is about 1,120.

Dawath Block.

This block was created on the 1st October 1962. It has an area of 40,107.27 acres comprising 117 villages out of which 15 villages are unpopulated. The total revenue of the block is Rs. 2,32,023.

There are 79 Co-operative Societies in the block. There is one Union Board at Koath, a village which is eight miles from Surajpura village is the headquarters of Dawath block. There are 74 schools within the block and two of them are Higher Secondary schools. They are at Surajpura and Koath villages.

Most of the area is irrigated by canals, wells or other sources. The land is fertile. There are a number of important villages within the block. Some of them are Surajpura, Kharajkalan, Baliyar, Barun, Dawath, Bithwa, Babhnaul and Koath. These villages are also electrified.

There are sixteen Gram Panchayats and one Union Board. Most of the Gram Panchayats have been entrusted with the collection of rent. This block has been put under Intensive Agriculture District Programme commonly known as the Package Programme.

There is one important temple at Surajpura and a church at Dolaicha village. There are some cottage industries like weaving, spinning and leather work. There are a number of weavers at Bithwa village. There are two *Charkha* centres for spinning at Surajpura and Jogni villages. There is one leather Co-operative Society at Agrerkhurd village.

The area being very fertile there are important markets at Surajpura, Koath and Dawath villages. The bi-weekly *hats* at Surajpura, Dawath and Koath and the annual *melas* at Babhnaul and Deerhi villages have a big turnover of grains, cloth, consumers and miscellaneous goods. The villages of Surajpura, Balihar, Deshgaon, Semri, Koath and Babhnaul have a population of 2,000 and above. The State dispensary is located at Koath and the District Board dispensary at Surajpura. There is one Irrigation Department Dak Bungalow at Koath and one District Board Dak Bungalow at Semri.

Dehri Block.

This block was started in 1959. There are 102 villages and 18 *gram panchayats* in this block. Its population is 1,21,186 according to 1961 census. The annual revenue of this block is Rs. 2,05,417. The percentage of annual rent collection was as follows:—

1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
94%	92%	90%	89%

The block headquarters is electrified and about 25 per cent villages have been electrified.

Since the inception of the block five tube-wells have been installed. A big project, i.e., Sone Barrage has been started in this block.

As regards communication, villages of this block are well connected with *pucca* and *kutchha* roads. A new road project is also under investigation which will bring the dark hilly tracts and the villages to light in the matter of communication, civilisation and marketing. It is the programme which will enable us to go through the jungles of Kaimur Range up to the border of Madhya Pradesh. It is the scheme of construction of pitched road from Dehri passing through Rohtas and Nauhatta to Madhya Pradesh border. It will run parallel and to the river Sone on its western bank.

A small tribal population exists in village Bharkuria in this block. They are 20 in numbers comprised of four families only.

A soap making industry and bakery are also running successfully in this area. There is a sock making industry producing cheap and best socks at Dehri. Besides this, other industry like shoe making also exists.

Three *melas* are held on the occasion of *Fagun Sivaratri Mela* at Bharkuria, *Makar Sankranti Mela* at Dehri and Chainpur and *Nag Panchami Mela* at Dehri.

The Grand Trunk Road passes through Dehri proper. The road is disconnected at Barun on the eastern side of the Sone river.

The following villages have a population more than 2,000 according to 1961 census:—

(a) Baraon	..	..	..	2,092
(b) Darihat	..	..	..	4,419
(c) Sidhauri	..	..	..	3,710
(d) Gangauli	..	..	..	2,858
(e) Bank	..	..	..	3,703
(f) Bhaluar	..	..	..	2,111
(g) Pahles	..	..	..	2,461

There are State Dispensary at Dehri and at Dalmianagar. The former provides indoor beds for six patients and the latter provides 50 beds. Besides, there are three Health Sub-centres at three corners of the block and one District Board Dispensary at village Darihat. Preventive programme like mass vaccination and inoculation against spread of cholera, small pox, etc., are also attended. Cattle wealth is also being looked after by one Class I Veterinary Dispensary located at Dehri and with four sub-centres in the villages. There are three dak bungalows, two at Dehri and one at Ayarkotha.

Institutions like *Bharat Sewak Samaj*, Co-operative Federation, Social Extension Welfare Project for women, etc., exist in this block.

Dinara Block.

This Block consists of 277 villages out of which 61 are unpopulated. The total area of the Block in square miles is 148.57. The total revenue of the Block under percentage of annual collection in the last three years is given below:—

Year.			Arrear.	Current.
1958-59	..	..	63%	67%
1959-60	..	..	62%	69%
1960-61	..	..	59%	60%
59				10 Rev.

This Block was notified as Pre-Extension Block, vide Government letter no. 716-DC, dated 7th October, 1959 with effect from 1st October, 1959. It underwent Pre-Extension period for complete one year. During this period ground for development of the block in stage I was prepared. The Block has since been notified with effect from 1st October, 1960, vide Government letter no. C.D. II-B-76|60-8575, dated 2nd November, 1960.

As this Block had to undergo one year period of Pre-Extension during which no money was available for starting important projects and schemes no achievement could be made in the direction. The electrification of the area has not been undertaken so far, but as the information goes the Executive Engineer Electricity, Sasaram Division has plans to electrify the area soon.

As far as the rural water-supply is concerned the main source is the wells in the villages. The number of irrigational wells and drinking wells in the villages is not adequate. According to the schematic programme of the block under head agriculture there is a programme to cover the entire area with 500 irrigation wells. Apart from this, a considerable number of drinking water wells are also to be given. Most important source of irrigation is canal. The entire area is covered by net work of canal, the most important of which are, Buxar main canal and Chausa branch canal. Besides these, there are a number of distributaries, important of which are Santh distributary, Bhanas distributary, Bhanpur distributary, Andaur distributary and Kochas distributary. A considerable area, i.e., about 50 per cent land is under the command of these canals. This has been the primary consideration including this block under Package programme.

As regards construction of pucca roads the main road which runs from east to west, i.e., from Bikramganj to Mohania and which passes through this Block is already under construction. From Bikramganj to Dinara 13 miles have been made metalled by P. W. D. No other construction of pucca road has been taken.

There are 26 Panchayats in the Block. Election has been completed. The Panchayats are working quite well and have so far shown better co-operation in achievement of development programme. Their response to various item of block programme is enthusiastic and quite praiseworthy, but the most disappointing feature as regards the working of Panchayats in the area is the presence of a separatist groupism among the different classes and communities. This considerably mars the work.

The most important item of the block programmes is considerable emphasis on improving the agriculture of the community. In this respect this block is very fortunate as programme of Intensive

Agriculture has been started in this block. The objectives of this scheme are not merely the same objectives of the Community Development Blocks of demonstrating how production can be improved, educating the cultivators and supplying materials but on the other hand the idea is that every thing that an individual farmer requires for increasing agricultural production will be given to him after an individual study of his land.

This programme provides for adequate and timely supplies of production requisites such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc., through the co-operatives.

(ii) Adequate and timely supply of credit to enable the farmers to purchase the full supplies available. This is based on the production plans formulated for the participating farmers.

This scheme has been implemented in this block since last *Rabi* season. In the first instance 55 villages were selected under this scheme. The villagers have shown unexpected enthusiasm and their faith and enthusiasm in the programme has been amply justified by the brilliant progress achieved during *Rabi* season. The fields have given unexpected yield varying from 18 to 20 mds. per acre in case of wheat and barley in comparison to traditional farmer producing 3 to 4 mds. per acre. This has further intensified the faith in the programme and farmers are coming with renewed vigour to join the programme during the coming *kharif* season.

As has been said above the main aim of the programme is to improve the economic condition of the individual farmers by increasing his yield. The actual working has shown that setting apart all the expenditures incurred in doing cultivation through this method individual farmer is deriving a net profit of Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 per acre.

The area is not specially noted for existence of important historical temples and mosques coming from time immemorial but there is one mosque, namely "*Chand Shahid*" at Dinara which is reported to have been coming since the time of Sher Shah. There is one temple at Bhaluni in which the deity of "*Dakshni Bhawani*" is enshrined. This temple is also quite old.

The prospect of different cottage industries is also not very bad in this area. From the Block survey report it has come to light that 240 persons are engaged in doing carpentry works, 364 persons are adopting blacksmithy as their profession. 245 persons are doing leather job. Similarly in knitting, basket-making, spinning, pottery, blanket making, 154, 33, 121, 270, 865 and 31 persons respectively are engaged.

As regards important hats and *Melas*, Bhaluni *mela* and Natwar Bazar are worth mentioning. Bhaluni *mela* is held annually at the time of "*Ram Navmi*". This is one of the important *melas* in

Shahabad district. As regards Natwar Bazar it can be called the main trade centre of Dinara P.-S. It is held twice in a week. It is a great grain centre where farmers bring their extra produce in search of market. There are considerable number of *goladar* shares who store the different commodities of the farmers and advance their prices.

The area is extremely backward in respect of good communication as a matter of fact this is the greatest handicap which hampers the full development of the area. There is only one good metalled road from Natwar to Dinara which is in the process of *pucca*. It begins from Natwar in the eastern side and ends at Natwar at a distance of 18 miles. Up till now this road has been constructed *pucca* up to Dinara only, i.e., a distance of seven miles only. Major number of villages are not connected with approach roads. The two villages, Bhanpur and Karhansi are with a population of 2,000 and above.

There is one State Dispensary at Dinara. There is one District Board Dispensary at Raghunathpur. Three health sub-centres of the Block are proposed to be opened at Gang Bharseara, Chitaon and Natwar. There is one canal Dak Bungalow each at Gunlej, Jamrorh and Rampur.

Dumraon Block.

This block was started on 1st April, 1955 and was upgraded as a Community Development Block on 1st April, 1961. The total area of the block is 92.25 square miles. There are 118 villages and 22 Gram Panchayats in this block. This block also covers the Dumraon town.

The block has constructed a number of drinking wells and has put up some hand pumps. A branch of Sone canal passes through the block area. It is the main source of irrigation.

The block was brought under Intensive Agricultural District Programme in 1960. The output of wheat, gram, potato, sugarcane and paddy has gone up under this programme.

There is an important Bihariji temple in the Dumraon town. There is an ancient village named Bhojpur *Jadid* in this block. This village has been named after the Maharaj Bhoj of Bhojpur. It is said that it was fairly a large village during the life time of the Maharaj Bhoj. The ruins of the *garh* is said to be the ancient *garh* of Ujjain Rajput.

The main cottage industries in this block are carpentry, shoe-making, blacksmithy, cloth weaving and pottery. Improved tools have been supplied to the artisans of the block.

Hat is held at Dumraon and *mela* is held at Bhojpur and Koran-sarai villages.

So far as communication is concerned, Arrah-Buxar and Dumraon-Nasriganj roads pass through the block headquarters. The villages having more than two thousand population are Mathila, Kasian, Attaon and Ariaon.

Durgauti Block.

This block with 108 villages was opened on 1st April, 1960. It has an area of 41,425 acres. There are 17 Gram Panchayats. The total population according to 1961 Census is 47,245 with 7,318 households.

This block has sunk 13 irrigational wells and 50 drinking wells. The Grand Trunk Road passes through the block.

A big *mela* is held at village Kulharia on the eve of *Ramnavami*.

There is a State Dispensary in this block. Besides there are three health sub-centres. There is a Public Works Department Bungalow at Durgauti.

There is a Veterinary Dispensary at the block headquarters. There are 27 lower primary schools, 16 upper primary, one basic school, two middle and three high schools in this block. This block has opened 14 libraries in big villages.

There are 33 Co-operative Societies in this block.

Itarhi Block.

This block was opened in 1960. Its area is 88 square miles. It has 160 villages and 14 Gram Panchayats. Its total population according to 1961 Census was 60,544 with 5,279 households.

This block has constructed 59 irrigational wells and 54 drinking wells. Besides these it has also sunk irrigational tube-wells.

There are 40 lower primary, 13 upper primary, one senior basic, ten middle and two high schools in this block. The total number of school-going boys is about 4,000.

There are a State Dispensary and class I Veterinary Dispensary at the block headquarters.

Jagdishpur Block.

This block was established in 1962. Its total area is 70,615.45 acres. There are 186 villages and 18 Gram Panchayats in the block. The total population according to 1961 Census is 1,04,443, i.e., 51,815 males and 52,628 females.

The total demand of revenue was Rs. 6,57,655.24 and the collection was 48 per cent. Jagdishpur, the block headquarters is electrified. This town has an importance in Shahabad district.

This block has constructed 34 drinking wells and 47 irrigational wells. It has also sunk tube-wells for irrigational purposes.

So far communication is concerned, this block is well connected with roads. From Jagdishpur buses ply to Piro-Behia, Arrah, etc.

The cottage industries, namely, pottery, cart wheel manufacturing, etc., are in the block. About 80 Co-operative Societies are functioning.

There are 71 lower primary, 20 upper primary, one senior basic, ten high schools, and six miscellaneous schools. The total number of school-going students is about 7,000.

Jagdishpur, the block headquarters is the birth place of Babu Kunwar Singh. He was the leader of the Mutiny of 1857.

Kargahar Block.

There are 385 villages in this block with an area of 1,18,226.56 acres. The total demand of the block is Rs. 10,40,601.57 and the percentage of collection during the last three years is 534, 426 and 91 per cent respectively.

The block was started in the month of October, 1956 and was raised to C. D. Stage II from 1961.

26 irrigation wells and 114 drinking water wells have been constructed in the different villages of the block. Nine villages have been electrified so far. The block headquarters is situated on Sasaram-Chousa road at a distance of 14 miles from Sasaram. Two *pucca* roads pass through the block (i) the Sasaram-Chousa Road of which 18 miles lie in the block area and (ii) Bikramganj-Mohania Road of which about 11 miles have in the block area.

There are 29 Gram Panchayats in the block. It is reported by the B. D. O. that many of the *Mukhiyas* have not been able to keep themselves aloof from controversial village politics.

There is no tribal population in the block.

The use of improved implements, manures and fertilisers have improved the agriculture production.

There is no important temple or mosque. Village Sahuta is the birth place of Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi who took active part in the independence movement.

There is some scope of the development of leather, handloom and blanket-weaving in some of the villages.

There is no *hat* or trade centre. Kargahar and Kochus mentioned, are the two market places. At village Digita in the month of *Phalgoon* and at Kargahar in the months of *Phalgoon* and *Baisakh melas* are held.

There are two *pucca* P. W. D. roads which run through the block area. The Sasaram-Chousa road runs for about 15 miles and Bikramganj to Mohania road about nine miles. Due to absence of good communication more than 80 per cent of the villages of this block remain disconnected throughout the rainy season. Two roads, one from Kharadih station to Kudra station and the other from Nokha to Kargahar are constructed. This would solve a lot of the difficulties found by the villagers.

Kargahar and Kochus are the two villages with more than two thousand population.

There is a State Dispensary at Kargahar and a District Board Dispensary at Kochus. Besides three health sub-centres run at village Sekh Baahuarea, Barhri and Torni and two veterinary dispensaries at Kochus.

One District Board Dak Bungalow at Kochus and five Irrigation Bungalows at Kudiari, Pasathua, Phully, Barhari and Sirisian are located inside the block.

Karakat Block.

This block with 128 villages was opened in 1961. It has an area of 118.36 square miles. The population of the block is 89,254 according to the Census of 1961. The block headquarters is located at Bikramganj (May, 1964). There are 21 Gram Panchayats in the block.

The table below will show the demand and collection of the revenue from 1961-62 to 1963-64:—

Year.	Demand.	Percentage of collection.
	Rs.	
1961-62 ..	3,18,595.00	70
1962-63 ..	4,18,546.84	99
1963-64 ..	2,46,555.19	97

There is a famous temple at Deomarkande village. A *mela* is held in the month of June in Belarhia village. There is also an old temple at this village.

The cottage industries of the block are blanket weaving, carpentry and blacksmithy.

Hats are held at villages Karakat, Sakla and Chougain within this block. As regards communications, the Bikramganj-Nasriganj metalled road passes through the Block area. The Akbarpur-Koilwar unmetalled road also passes through the eastern boundary of the block area. There is also a *kachcha* road from Nonar to Nasriganj which passes through the Kao (or Vasumari) river near Karath.

The District Board Dispensaries are at Gorari and Ghamardihri villages. Besides there are two canal Dak Bungalows at Danwar and at Jaishri.

Koilwar Block.

This block with 73 villages came into existence in 1956. The block has an area of 41,410.64 acres. There are 19 *gram panchayats*.

The population of the block according to 1961 Census is 71,326 with 11,359 households.

This block has sunk 40 drinking wells and 25 irrigational tube-wells. The cottage industries are blacksmithy, poultry and leather works.

There are 43 lower primary schools, 21 upper primary schools, five middle and 4 high schools in this block. There are 31 libraries.

There is one T. B. Sanatorium at Koilwar. Besides there is a State Dispensary at the block headquarters.

There are several co-operative societies in this block.

Kudra Block.

This block was started on 2nd October, 1952 and was named Bhabua-Mohania-Sasaram Community Development Project. Only five *halkas* of this *Anchal* were included in the aforesaid project. This stage lasted up to the 30th June 1956 and thereafter it was converted into National Extension Service Block. In 1959 it was re-named as Community Development Stage II Block.

The area of the block is 80.73 square miles with 160 villages and 13 Gram Panchayats. According to 1961 Census its total population is 49,512.

The following table will show the demand and collection of the revenue from 1959-60 to 1960-61:—

Year.	Demand.	Collection.	Percentage.
	Rs.	Rs.	
1959-60	1,88,266.92	1,23,022.39	65.43
1960-61	4,18,770.22	1,44,320.54	34.49

About 10 villages are electrified. The Block has sunk 30 wells for drinking and one medium irrigation scheme at Jagdishpur has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 32,000.00 for irrigation purposes.

The main produce of this block area are paddy, gram, wheat, barley, etc. The important cottage industries are blanket weaving and leather works. Sheep rearing and blanket weaving have some prospects in this area.

There is an important market at Kudra. It is a retail market centre. Fairs are held at Kudra and Basawan villages at the time of *Basant Panchami*.

So far as communication is concerned, the Grand Trunk Road passes through the block. Besides there is also Kudra-Parsuthua (14 miles) jeepable road in this block.

There are two Government dispensaries, one at Kudra and the other at Basawan. Within this block there are two Dak Bungalows at Kudra and Basawan. There is a Veterinary Dispensary at Kudra.

The villages having population more than two thousand are Jahanabad and Fakrabad.

There are 23 lower primary schools, 10 upper primary, two junior basic, two middle and one high schools. The total number of libraries is 54.

Mohania Block.

The area of the Block is 70,808.27 acres comprising of 110.63 square miles. There are 209 villages in the Block which consist of 149 populated villages and 60 non-populated ones. The percentage of annual collection is as below:—

Year.	Percentage of collection.	
	Arrear.	Current.
1957-58	66	61
1958-59	76½	76
1959-60	82.43	80

This block is a 1956-57 April Series Block. The Block has been placed under the charge of a B.D.O. who is in charge of both revenue and development work.

Rural Electrification work has been taken up by the Electric Supply Department. The electric poles pass by the G. T. Road side which passes through this block and many villages on the road-side have been electrified. Many boring schemes for supply of irrigation water to fields have been taken up. Further a canal has

also been constructed by the canal department. Village channels have also been constructed by the Block to promote irrigation facilities. Further many irrigation and drinking water wells have also been constructed. Improvements to village *katcha* roads have also been effected to.

Twenty Gram Panchayats are at present functioning in the area. The *Mukhiyas* also help in the execution of development works programme in their areas.

The percentage of population of the tribals in this Block is almost negligible. They get all the privileges which the scheduled castes and harijans are getting.

There has been a remarkable improvement in agriculture due to the construction of a canal in the area and provision of other irrigational facilities. People are taking some interest in Japanese method of paddy cultivation and have begun using the modern agricultural implements. Further an Intensive Agricultural Package Programme has also been taken up in this area.

Nearly all the inhabited villages of the area have some sort of temples where Hindus worship and many villages in the area have also got mosques where Mohammadans perform their prayers. There is no Church in the area. There is no historical site also.

There are two regulated village markets, i.e., Stuartganj and Darwan markets. They also perform as *Mandis* of the area. There is one cattle *mela* known as Akorhi Mela which is held four times in a year. Further a few religious fairs are also held in the villages of this block.

The Grand Trunk Road passes through this block. There is only one dispensary in the area and there are three Health Mobile Centres functioning in the area. There is one Dak Bungalow at Mohania.

Nasriganj Block.

This block was started on the 1st of April, 1961. It covers an area of 46,995.72 acres and contained 85 villages of which Nasriganj, Amiawar, Rajpur, Baligaon and Pokharaha Jamalpur have a population of over 2,000 people. There are 20 *gram panchayats* in this block. The total revenue of the block is rupees 2,31,276.00. The headquarters is at Nasriganj which is urban in character and has a Union Committee. The town as well as villages Mangraon, Atimi, Rajpur and Amujawar in this block are electrified. Electricity is mostly used for domestic purposes.

Rural water-supply for drinking purposes is from wells constructed by the public as well as Government.

Tarari Block

This block was opened in 1961. There are 115 villages and 17 Gram Panchayats in this block. Its area is 49,652 acres. Its total population according to 1961 census is 77,442 with 12,452 households.

This block has constructed about 133 irrigational wells and 126 drinking wells.

There are 40 lower primary schools, 21 upper primary, 16 junior basic, one senior basic, nine middle and three high schools. The total number of school going students is 6,676.

Udwantnagar Block.

This block was opened in 1961. It comprises of 77 villages and 17 Gram Panchayats having an area of 66 square miles. The average percentage of revenue collection since three years, i.e., 1961 to 1963 is about 75 per cent.

The block headquarters is electrified and electrification work has been done in about ten villages. Hand-pumps and drinking wells have been sunk in the villages.

The distributaries of the main Arrah canal irrigate the major portion of this block. Besides there are 12 State tube-wells for irrigation purposes.

The block is under Intensive Agricultural District Programme since September, 1960 and the farmers are co-operating in the scheme for increasing their agricultural production.

There is a Jain Temple in village Masarh. The Jains of Arrah attach great importance to the said temple. The legend about this is that it was constructed 400 years ago. Besides, there is a pond in which it is said that the daughter of Banasur of Pauranik age used to take bath. It is near Karisath railway station. The area of the pond is about 52 bighas.

The main cottage industries of this block are carpentry, weaving and blacksmithy. In village Masarh a local *mela* twice in a year in the months of *Chaitra* and *Asin* is held.

There are two *pucca* roads in the block one from Arrah to Buxar covering a distance of ten miles from the block and the other from Arrah to Sasaram covering ten miles also. Besides, there is canal road which remains open for about nine months for use. One road from Akauna to Sahar has been constructed.

There is a State Dispensary at village Udwantnagar and three Health Sub-centres at Asani, Kasap and Belaur.

There is no Dak Bungalow in this block.

revenue of the block is Rs. 2,77,858 and the percentage of collection during the last four years is given below:—

Year.	Percentage.
1956-57	58
1957-58	51
1958-59	58
1959-60	60

There are one college, five high schools, 51 middle and primary schools functioning in this block. At present two villages have the facilities of irrigation of tube-wells. There are three health sub-centres and one State Dispensary functioning in this block.

The villages namely, Majhwari, Dullahpur, Simri, Sahiyar and Niazipur have been electrified.

The important villages of the block have been provided with drinking well and hand-pumps. About 57 irrigational wells have been constructed in this block.

There are 21 Gram Panchayats functioning in this block.

There is no temple, mosque or church of any historical importance in this block.

At present there are two Training-cum-Production Centres namely, Cloth Weaving and Leather Tanning. There are six Co-operative Societies in this block.

Bi-weekly *hats* are held in villages Simri, Barka-Rajpur, Kathar, Dumri, Kazipur and Sahiyar.

There is only one important cattle *mela* at Niazipur which is held during *Kartick Purnima*. It is situated on the border of Ballia District of Uttar Pradesh, eight miles north of Dumraon railway station of Eastern Railway.

There is only one trade centre at Simri. Though the block is on the border of Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, no such inter-State trade and commerce exists due to difficulties of communication.

So far as communication is concerned, the block headquarters Simri is nine miles north of the Eastern Railway and seven miles north of the Buxar-Arrah road. There is a *kutchha* road from Dumraon to Niazipur (leading up to Ballia ghat in U. P.). Almost all the roads connected with the villages of this block are *kutchha* and so the only means of communication is either bullock cart or *tomtom*. The roads become inaccessible during the rainy season.

The villages having a population of more than 2,000 are Simri, Dullahpur, Dumri, Niazipur, Rajpur, Dhakaich, Kathar, Singhanpura, Rajapore, Gangauli and Beyasi (Sheopur Diara).

There are three health sub-centres, namely, Dumri, Dullahpur and Gangauli and one State Dispensary at Simri.

census. The percentage of revenue collection from 1956-57 to 1959-60 was as follows:—

Year.		Arrear.	Current.
1956-57	.. . .	99%	99%
1957-58	.. ..	95%	87%
1958-59	.. ..	91.5%	87.5%
1959-60	.. ..	98%	94%

Nineteen villages including Sheosagar where the headquarters of the block are located are electrified. There are various means of irrigation, namely, canal, rivers, wells, motor pumps, *ahars*, etc. The cultivators use better type manure, seeds and agricultural implements. The co-operative societies give credit facilities.

The Grand Trunk Road passes through the northern portion of the block from east to west dividing it into two parts, north and south. There is a *pucca* road (seven miles) running from village Beda to Raipur Chore.

The block has constructed 33 community centres out of which 15 are Community Centres-cum-Village Level Workers' residence.

There is an old Shiva temple situated on the eastern bank of Sheosagar tank said to have been dug during the regime of Sher Shah. There are a number of old historic villages in this block, namely, Sonhar (where a copper plate *dan-patra* was discovered), Alampur, Raipurchora, Nad, Khurian, Konor and Torna. Very old wells, mounds, etc., are seen in these villages. Raipurchora and Alampur villages have a population of more than two thousand persons. Bi-weekly *hats* are held in these villages.

The Grand Trunk Road passes through the northern portion of this block. The Grand Chord line also passes through the block parallel to the Grand Trunk Road.

Besides a State Dispensary at Sheosagar, there are three health sub-centres at villages, Torani, Parasi and Raipurchora. There are one Class I Veterinary Dispensary at Sheosagar and two field veterinary dispensaries at Torm and Karoop villages.

There are 17 lower primary, seven upper primary, 13 junior basic, ten senior basic, one middle school, two high schools and three miscellaneous schools in this block.

Simri Block.

This block was started in 1956. The area of the block is 96 square miles and consists of 145 villages and ten *halkas*. The total

pucca roads in this block, one from Sasaram to Tilauthoo and the other from Sasaram to Darigaon covering a distance of 15 and 10 miles respectively. Besides these *pucca* roads, there are some important *katcha* roads.

The construction of the Sone Barrage and the improvement of the Sone Canal system will materially help the produce of the villages that are in the south of this block. There are two villages in this block, i.e., Tilauthoo and Dhaudarh that have a population of about two thousand persons.

Besides the hospital at Sasaram there are two other State dispensaries at Tilauthoo and Darigaon. There are three health sub-centres at Govina, Karwandia and Dhaudarh villages. There are two veterinary hospitals at Darigaon and at Tilauthoo. Besides a Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow at Sasaram, there are two Dak Bungalows at Sasaram and at Beda. The last one is in a dilapidated condition.

There is one youth hostel constructed by the Sasaram Block at Beda on the Grand Trunk Road.

The modes of conveyance are the railways, passenger buses, carrier trucks, *Ekkas*, rickshaws, cycles, bullock-carts, taxis, cars, etc. Horse-riding is common.

Shahpur Block.

This block was opened in 1956. The population of the block according to 1961 census is 88,752 with 10,054 households. The area is 38,545 acres. There are 19 *gram panchayats*.

This block has five higher secondary schools, six high schools, two basic schools and 50 primary schools. There are one State Dispensary at Sahpur and three Health Sub-centres, at Bariswan, Benwalia and Ishapura. There is one class I Veterinary Dispensary at Shahpur and three field veterinary dispensaries at Karja, Benwalia and Karnamepur. Besides there is an artificial insemination centre at Ranisagar. This block is very rich in livestock population. At Shahpur there is a centre of R. C. Mission which has started a hospital, a girls' and a boys' school.

There are 42 co-operative societies in this block. Besides there are two Weaving Co-operative Societies and five Industrial Co-operative Societies.

Sheosagar Block.

This block with 199 villages came into existence in 1956. The area of the block is 73,255.41 acres out of which 53,973.34 acres are culturable land. There are 20 Gram Panchayats. The population of the block is 58,934 with 9,333 households according to 1961

In Sasaram there is a temple of goddess Parvati and by the side of the temple there is a cave where there are inscriptions in Pali language. There is a hill which is known as the *Chandan Shahids' Hill*. There are graves of a number of *Fakirs* on this hill. Some inscriptions in Pali language are found on this hill also.

So far as industry is concerned there are a number of stone quarries in this block. Stone chips are supplied from this place to many places. The construction of the Sone Barrage, Sone Bridge and Amjhore factory has given a larger scope for the expansion of this industry. About 5,000 persons are engaged in this industry round about Sasaram. There is a Stone-cutters' Co-operative Society. There are several lime-kilns in this block as limestones are found in plenty.

The leather workers are found scattered throughout the block. Some villages have got a concentration of leather-workers. These villages are Belarhi, Karpurwa, Mokar, Baizla, Uchitpura, Narainpur, Kurhi, Jaipur, Dawanpur, Gobina and Sasaram town. At present there are three shoe-makers' co-operative societies in this block.

There are three Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies in this block. There are about 300 members of these societies. About 50 powerlooms have been installed at village Maharajganj.

Basket making industry is concentrated at village Beda Banarasia. About forty families are engaged in this industry. They manufacture baskets with the stems of *rahar* plants. There is a good demand of such baskets in Sasaram. A basket makers' co-operative society of about 50 members has also been formed in this village. There are about 50 rice, oil and flour mills scattered all over the block. There is an assembling unit of sewing machines in Sasaram. The parts imported from the Punjab are assembled here.

There are three big *hats* in this block namely, Takia, Tilauthoo and Darigaon. Besides these big *hats*, there are a number of small *hats* also.

Three important *melas* are held in this block. Cattle *melas* are held at Darigaon and Tilauthoo. One *mela* is held at Tarachandi in the month of *Sawan*. The cattle *mela* at Darigaon is held twice a year, one in the month of *Chait*, and the other in the month of *Aswin*. Tilauthoo cattle *mela* is held in the month of *Kartik*. One small *mela* also takes place at Gorakshni in Sasaram town in the month of *Aswin* on the eve of the Durgapuja. There is a good turnover of trade and commerce both inter-district and inter-State in the *hats* and *melas* of this block.

Communication.—The block headquarter in Sasaram town is situated in between the Grand Trunk Road and Grand Chord Line of the Eastern Railway. The area of the block extends to two miles west and six miles east on the Grand Trunk Road. It also extends to five miles north on Arrah-Sasaram Road. There are two other

Sasaram Block.

This block was opened in 1956. Its area is 147.9 square miles with 223 villages and 26 Gram Panchayats. The total population according to 1961 census is 87,535 out of which 5,000 are tribals.

The following table will show the demand and collection of revenue from 1958-59 to 1960-61:—

Year.	Demand.			Collection.			Percentage.
	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	Arrear.	Current.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1958-59	86,680.44	1,78,339.52	2,65,019.96	84,765.99	1,57,250.52	2,42,016.56	93
1959-60	96,466.17	1,92,787.91	2,83,254.08	78,033.56	1,61,039.47	2,39,073.03	84
1960-61	1,24,619.33	2,00,955.66	3,25,574.99	1,02,577.97	1,56,856.10	2,59,434.07	79

A number of *kutchha* roads has been constructed by the block. One *pucca* road was also constructed from Sasaram to Darigaon.

For irrigation purpose this block has sunk about 30 tube-wells and 270 surface wells. Many *ahars* have been repaired. About 107 drinking wells have been sunk.

About 10 villages of this block have been electrified (1963). The villagers of this block have now become quite accustomed to improve agricultural practices. The demand for chemical fertilisers has enormously increased. Better seeds are in use and there is a distinct improvement in the cultivation of paddy and sugarcane. It is reported that only a few years before about 80 per cent of the cultivable lands were single cropped but now about 75 per cent of the cultivable lands have become double cropped land. There are more green-belts of vegetables. The increasing demand due to industrialisation has led to increase vegetable cultivation. There are more fruit trees now in this area.

There is a distinct shift of the agricultural population to industry now. The heavy industrialisation in Rohtas-Dalmianagar and in the Kaimur hills naturally attracts the surplus agricultural population.

The area has a number of beauty and historical spots. There are a few waterfalls near Sasaram town. The waterfalls are visited by many people in various seasons. During the rainy season the rush of the people to these falls is great. Some of these falls are as *Dhuan Kund*, *Majhar Kund* and *Sita Kund*. There are a number of historical monuments in this block. Sher Shah's tomb in Sasaram town is the most important of them. It is situated in the middle of a big tank. There is also a tomb of Hasan Khan Sur, father of Sher Shah situated in the heart of Sasaram town.

historical *Ahar* known as Ekwari George Pyne Line has been converted into Maranpore Canal sub-distributary line. This newly converted canal distributary is of one mile and will irrigate about 10,000.00 acres and make them culturable. The Garahani-Sahar *Katcha* District Board Road has been taken over by the Central P. W. D.

There are 23 Gram Panchayats in this block. The rent collection work has been entrusted to the Gram Panchayats.

The total population of this block, according to the census of 1961 is 95,676, out of which about 30 per cent are Scheduled Castes. There are no Scheduled Tribes in this block.

This block has also been selected for Intensive Agricultural District Programme. On account of the introduction of the Intensive Agricultural District Programme the agricultural economic conditions are expected to improve.

There is no important temple, mosque and church in this block.

Previously Sahar, the headquarters of this block, was specially renowned for manufacturing paper. There are still some dilapidated buildings where paper used to be made under indigenous method. The main cottage industry of this block is rope twisting. Plenty of *Jhalas* plant is found on Sone bed. Rope is made out of *Jhalas*.

There is one important *Mela* known as Dharampore Kharaon Cattle *Mela* which is held on each Friday from June to October each year on the bank of the river Sone. Villagers from other districts also come to this *mela*.

There is one village namely Dhanchhuan in this block which is not connected even with old Sahar-Garahani District Board Road, though this village has a total population of more than 2,000 and there are middle and high schools. There is a necessity to connect this village with Sahar District Board Road.

Sandesh Block.

This block was opened in 1960. It comprises of 89 villages. Its area is 46,125 acres. Its total population according to the census of 1961 is 65,746 with 10,875 households.

This block has constructed about 75 drinking wells and about 10 tube-wells for irrigational purposes.

There is a State Dispensary at the block headquarters and three Health Sub-centres.

There are 30 lower primary, 18 upper primary, 17 senior basic, six middle and five high schools in this block. The total number of school-going boys and girls is 93,120.

The cottage industries namely carpentry and pottery are in this block.

the block is near about Rs. 80,000. There are a number of gram panchayats in the block. The block has a small percentage of tribals. Special organisations like residential schools, grain-golas, drinking wells, etc., have been introduced for the tribal population. There are a few social centres for encouraging adult education.

Attempt is being made to improve the agricultural economy of the block. The soil conditions and the poor economic incidence of the farmers stand on the way. The Training-cum-Production Centres that had been started at Ramdihra, Tumra and Akbarpur villages have been closed down. The Training-cum-Production Centres were not able to do much in encouraging the cottage industries of carpentry, smithy and bee-keeping. There is scope of development of rope industry at Saraiya, powerloom industry at Ramdihra and for the starting of one cold storage at Saraiya.

There are a few important temples in this block. The temples at Rohtas Fort have been covered elsewhere. There are also very old temples at Sametula, Majhigawa, Banjari, Rasulpur, Saraiya and Kespa villages. There are no important *hats*, *melas* or markets but some small markets are held at some of these villages. The Kalyanpur Cement Factory at Banjari is an important industrial concern in this area. This has been covered elsewhere.

Excepting the Dehri-Rohtas road the other roads are difficult for use in the rainy season. There is one District Board dispensary at Akbarpur and three Public Health Sub-centres at Karma, Kamran Sang and Rohtas Fort. There are three Dak Bungalows at Rohtas Fort, Bakram and at Saraiya.

A large portion of this block is comprised of hills which are a part of Kaimur plateau which is rich in limestone and pyrites. Some other minerals are also available. There are thick forests in which bamboos and other valuable timber are found and are being exploited. There is excellent wild game in the forest areas. Rohtas and Rohtasgarh are beauty spots.

Sahar Block.

The total area of the Sahar Block is 63,348.00 acres. This block consists of 112 villages. The total revenue of this block is Rs. 2,24,482.49. The percentage of the collection for the last few years comes to 72 per cent to 89 per cent.

This block was notified as Circle Office, Sahar on 1st January, 1956 and it was notified as C. D. Block Stage I from 1st April, 1961 with its headquarters at village and police-station Sahar which is on the bank of the river Sone.

Electrification was introduced in this block in 1960. A number of drinking wells and tube-wells have been constructed for rural water-supply. This block is under the canal command area and almost all the culturable lands are irrigated by the canal. One

There is no important temple, mosque and church in this Anchal.

There are two *bazars* in the Anchal, namely, Manoharpur and Dhansori. There were held a considerable, number of small-sized *melas* in the Anchal for paddy, procuring.

There is only one Inspection Bungalow of Irrigation Department located at Manoharpur. There are two District Board managed dispensaries, one at Manikpur and another at Sarya. There is only one Government Hospital at Manoharpur. The needs of the entire Anchal are not fulfilled by these hospital and dispensaries.

A static dispensary at Rajpur and one I. B. at Rajpur are the pressing needs for the Anchal. There are six villages which have population of about 2,000 persons, namely, Sarya, Dehri, Rajpur, Rampur, Kheri and Dhansole. There is a net work of canal in the Anchal and the service roads of canal are made *pucca* open to all kinds of traffic.

There is no place in the Anchal for historical and tourists interest.

Ramgarh Block.

This block was established in 1958 as pre-extension block and functioning as Community Development Stage I since 1st April, 1962. The area of the block is 88.13 square miles. There are 232 villages out of which 57 villages are depopulated in this block. There are 24 statutory Gram Panchayats. Ramgarh is the headquarters of the block.

The annual percentage of revenue collection of the block in the years 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63 are 71 per cent, 49 per cent and cent per cent respectively.

This block has constructed some irrigational wells, drinking wells and has put up some hand-pumps. The main cottage industries of the block are blacksmithy, pottery, etc.

A cattle fair is held at Nuaon village and a *mela* is held at village Mahnar on the occasion of *Ram Navami* in the month of *Chaitra*. About 5,000 to 10,000 villagers attend this *mela*.

There is a State dispensary at Ramgarh and three health sub-centres in different villages. There are high schools at Nuaon and Deohalia and one higher secondary school at Ramgarh.

A metalled Ramgarh-Bhabua road passes through the Block headquarters.

Rohtas Block.

The block was started from 2nd November, 1959 although actually it has been functioning from 1st November, 1957. There are 59 villages with an area of 85,958 acres. The total revenue of

The villages having population more than two thousand are Tar, Jitaura, Lahthan, Chhawarahi, Jangal mahal, Kataria, Katar, Narainpur, Jamuaon, Agiaon and Nonar.

There is a State Dispensary at Piro.. There are two Dak Bungalows located at Lahthan and Piro.

There are six high schools in the block.

Rajpur Block.

- (a) Area of the Block—134.50 square miles.
- (b) No. of villages—283 (104 Bechiragi).
- (c) Total Revenue of the Anchal—Rs. 3,49,469.57.
- (d) Percentage of collection in the last three years:—

1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
75	71½	73.50

Forty drinking wells have been taken up under L. W. P. scheme out of which twenty have been completed. Two *hat* sheds and two *kutchery* buildings are under execution. One irrigational tank has been taken up. Besides this construction of one school building and one road has also been taken up on the basis of 50 per cent Government subsidy. Two Harijan colonies are under execution.

Some villages namely, Rajpur, Rauni, Manoharpur, Jarnouli and Jalahari have been covered under the expansion scheme of the Electricity Board of the Government of Bihar.

This block is very poor in the matter of communication as there are only two *pucca* roads (C. W. P.) within the Anchal—

- (1) Chausa-Sasaram road, and (2) Chausa-Mohania road—which are under construction. There are only three *Kutch* District Board roads which cover some portion of the Anchal. These *katcha* roads remain practically un-accessible during the rains.

There are twenty-four Gram Panchayats in the Anchal. But people in general are not very enthusiastic or hopeful in their prospects and proper functions due to party and group politics in the villages. Casteism has also crept in the Panchayats. Some Gram Panchayats are collecting rent in the Anchal.

There is no tribal population in the Anchal.

A remarkable improvement in the agricultural economy of the villagers is expected to be achieved within next few years as this pre-extension block has been taken up in the new Intensive Development District Programme popularly known as Package Programme since 1st April, 1961.

The block headquarters Nokha, on Arrah-Sasaram road has good transport facilities by A.S. Light Railway, passenger buses, trucks, *Ekkas* carts, rickshaws, etc.

The *garh* of Nokha was a seat of a kingship and this *garh* is a protected monument under the management of Archaeological Department.

The Intensive Agricultural District Programme has been introduced since 1961 in this block.

There are five rice mills, a big market, a State Dispensary, a Veterinary Dispensary, a post office, and a Dak Bungalow at the block headquarters.

There are 66 lower primary, 22 upper primary, 14 middle and seven other miscellaneous schools in this block.

There are 81 co-operative societies.

Piro Block.

This block was opened in 1961. The total population according to 1961 is 1,03,236. There are 112 villages in the block out of which 103 villages are unpopulated. The area is 52,315.25 acres distributed in 11 *halkas*.

There are only six villages, namely, Piro, Hasuadih, Jitaura, Rajeau, Shejani and Jamuaon (May, 1964).

The block has constructed wells, *ahars*, *pynes*, etc., for irrigation purposes. It has also sunk hand-pumps for drinking purposes.

So far as communication is concerned this village is well connected with rail and road. The Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway passes through the block headquarters.

Package Programme has been introduced in the block area. It has brought a movement among the cultivators to adopt the improved method of cultivation and there is considerable increase in yield as against the old methods of cultivation. There is a temple known as Bahari Mahadeo where fairs are held in the months of *Phalgun* and *Baisakh*. There is a church at Piro which is run by the American Catholic Mission.

So far as cottage industry is concerned, there is a Carpentry Training-cum-Production Centre in the block. Besides there is also a Weavers' Training Centre at Hasanbazar. There are 13 Industrial Co-operative Societies in this block.

Hats are held at Piro, Hasanbazar, Jitaura and Agion and *melas* are held at Bahari Mahadeo and Katar. Two villages, namely, Hasanbazar and Piro are the main trading centres in this block.

There are 20 *gram panchayats* in the block, 16 of which have taken charge of rent collection work.

Since the inception of the block nine wells for drinking purposes have been constructed and 23 hand pumps have been installed. Villages Nawanagar, Athar, Karath, Alimi, Rupsagar, Rampur, Basdeva and Belaon have been electrified.

The block is mainly agricultural and has a number of canals. Intensive Agricultural District Programme (commonly known as the Package Programme) has been taken up in this block and the cultivators are taking some interest in it. Fertilizers are sold through co-operative societies. There are 61 Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies with 2,218 members and a share capital of rupees 38,428.

The only *pucca* road which passes through this block is the one running from Dumraon to Nasriganj. The other roads are District Board *kutcha* roads and canal roads. There are two Dak Bungalows maintained by the Irrigation Department, the one is at Sikraul and the other at Sidhipur.

There are a State Dispensary and an Irrigation Subdivisional Office at village Sikraul. Health sub-centres at villages Maina, Karsan and Kanjia have been opened by the block. There are a Class I Veterinary Dispensary and an Artificial Insemination Centre at Nawanagar. Two animal husbandry sub-centres have been opened, one at Katikuar and the other at Sonbarsa.

Nokha Block.

This block with 117 villages was opened in October, 1962. It has an area of 79 square miles. There are 17 Gram Panchayats. The population of the block is 77,870 with 11,805 households according to 1961 Census. Ten villages are electrified.

The following table will show the demand and collection of revenue from 1958-59 to 1962-63:—

Year.		Demand (in rupees).	Collection (in rupees).
1958-59	..	2,70,726.05	2,18,988.11
1959-60	..	2,49,272.55	2,18,587.11
1960-61	..	3,01,202.05	2,55,848.69
1961-62	..	3,29,987.25	2,12,299.13
1962-63	..	4,11,751.00	3,77,799.58

The block authorities have repaired 21 *ahars* and have sunk 23 drinking wells. Sixteen *rahats* for irrigation purposes have been distributed.

expectation. This is partly due to lack of enthusiasm among the general public in making local contributions and partly due to party fractions.

Tribes.—The tribal population mainly consists of Dhangars (Uraon) and is confined to hill area in the Kaimoor plateau. Their population according to the 1957 Census is 3,880 which works at 16 per cent of the total population.

Among the important measures taken for their uplift mention may be made of provision for drinking water-supply and establishment of an Ayurvedic Dispensary.

Some grain-golas have been established which have been catering to the needs of the local population. One residential school has also been started in which nearly 25 students are reading. The entire cost of their boarding and lodging as well as all the educational expenses are being met by Government. Construction of two Community Halls commonly known as *Dhum Kuria* has already been completed. Three hill pathways have also been constructed in the area.

As there are lime-stone quarries located in this area, there has been no emigration of the local population.

Important Places.

There is no important temple, mosque or church in this area. At village Bandu, however, there is a place of Lord Shiva which is situated in the middle of river Sone. Many ancient kings visited this place and their names find inscribed at this place. A *mela* is held at this place in the month of *Fagun* every year which lasts for ten days. Nauhatta has an ancient image.

There is only one weekly *hat* in this project which is held in village Nauhatta.

There is no Dak Bungalow owned either by Government or District Board, but the Sone Valley Portland Cement Company is maintaining one Bungalow for the visitors known as K-6 and another guest house at Baulia which is their quarry headquarters.

The following villages have a population of two thousand and above:—(1) Daranagar, and (2) Nauhatta Parcha.

Since the opening of the project 12 libraries, 10 recreation centres and 12 youth clubs have been organised.

Nawanagar Block.

This block was opened on 1st April 1962 and covers 110 inhabited and 12 uninhabited villages with a total area of 48,172.30 acres. According to 1961 Census the total population of the block is 77,793 with 9,820 occupied residential houses. The total revenue of the block is rupees 2,00,092.96 paise.

There existed two dispensaries in this project run by the Sone Valley Portland Cement Company but they only catered for the employees of the company. Now one State Dispensary has been started at the project headquarters at Nauhatta and three Health Sub-centres have been opened at different places in the area. In addition to these there is also one Ayurvedic dispensary which serves exclusively the tribal portion of the project. For the treatment of animals there existed absolutely no facility but now one Class I Veterinary Centre and three Field Veterinary Centres have been started.

The only source of irrigation that existed from before was the *Ahars* but these only helped in channelling the rain water and were mainly useful for *Aghani* paddy. Now a large number of irrigation wells have been dug. It is hoped that *Rabi* cultivation will be intensified. The area being rocky, most of the wells dry up during the summer and open boring has also been provided.

As already mentioned there is practically no road communication in the area. The Railway track of the Rohtas Industries, Ltd., which starts from Dehri, has penetrated into this area and runs up to Chutia covering a distance of nearly 16 miles of this project. Two passenger trains have been provided by the R. I. Ltd., and they are a boon to the people of this area.

There is only one road which runs through this project. This is a District Board Road which starting from Dehri terminates at the border of Mirzapur district. The condition of this road in the project area is very bad and is hardly used even by pedestrians during the rainy season. A good number of culverts have already been constructed on this road. A black-topped *pucca* road up to the Block headquarters is a possibility. In the tribal area, three hill pathways have already been completed.

On the Education side also the area was quite backward. There existed only one High School, one Middle School and 26 primary schools when the project started in this area. Now one more high school has been started at Nauhatta. Four more middle schools and four primary schools have also been started. The condition of all the existing schools was very bad and many of them had no buildings of their own. Construction of 20 school buildings had been taken up out of which five have already been completed and the rest are under construction.

Forty Co-operative Societies have been organised out of which there are 15 Multi-purpose Societies.

Gram Panchayats.—So far the Panchayats have not been so active in development activities as is desired of them. They have taken up execution of schemes but the progress has not been up to the

with the help of *thumri* (a small closed hollow overturned pot) in the fast current of the river for the purpose of salvaging washed out trees and jungle wood from the river. The wood so salvaged serve the people as fuel for at least nine months, besides bringing some hard cash to the people who sell it.

Nauhatta Block.†

The special Multi-purpose Tribal Project is situated in the extreme south-west corner of the Shahabad district and adjoins the Palamau district in Bihar and the Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh. It extends out a total area of 151 square miles comprising partly of the Kaimur plateau and partly the plains on the northern bank of the river Sone. There are 68 villages in this project, having a total population of 24,120 according to the census of 1951.

The following is the figure of demand and collection on account of rent, cess and miscellaneous dues during the past three years:—

Year.	Demand.	Collection.	Percentage of collection.
	Rs.	Rs.	
1957-58	63,241.74	60,763.41	96.5
1958-59	67,227.90	68,364.23*	98.50
1959-60	72,122.25	73,440.89*	97.7

*Advance collection are also included in the figures.

Short history of the Project.—This project was first started on 26th January 1957 as a N. E. S. Block with its temporary headquarters at Baulia and was subsequently converted from April, 1957 into a Special Multi-purpose Tribal Project with a view to intensify ing the development activities amongst the tribal and scheduled castes population in the area. The main occupation of the people in this area continues to be agriculture but the opening of lime-stone quarries has ventilated a source for supplementing the income of the agriculturists and for whole time employment to the unemployed.

On account of its situation and for want of communication facilities the people of this area had been generally left to themselves and in the beginning it was really an up hill task to make them understand the development activities and to adopt them.

Important projects and their usefulness.—At the time when the project was started, the pressing need of the area, particularly those inhabited by the tribals, was that of adequate and safe drinking water. This has now been partially solved by constructing a number of wells in some of the villages.

† There is an appraisal report separately. This report was received from the Project Executive Officer.

The area is well irrigated, irrigation being provided by canals. The main Arrah canal with a large number of its distributaries passes through this block and a canal subdivision is located at Nasriganj. There is also another canal subdivision, Danwar canal subdivision, situated in the vicinity of this block. Thus there is no dearth of water for irrigation purposes.

The land is very fertile and produces large quantity of paddy besides other agricultural commodities. The method followed by the farmers is still primitive though the block has been making efforts to introduce modern methods. The block has been taken under Intensive Agricultural District Programme (Package Programme) from 1st April, 1961. People are being trained in the use of different kinds of fertilizers, improved agricultural implements, better seeds, etc.

There are two *pucca* roads which connect Nasriganj with Dehri in the south and Bikramganj on north-west corner. Besides these there are two main District Board roads, viz., Koilwar-Rohtas road and Nasriganj-Nokha road. But there are *katcha* roads and in rainy season they become impassable due to breaches in them. The nearest railway station is Bikramganj of the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway.

The block has two dispensaries one at Nasriganj and the other at Bhim Karup. It has three inspection bungalows, viz., (i) Nasriganj Canal Inspection Bungalow, (ii) Pakari Irrigation Inspection Bungalow and (iii) Nasriganj District Board Inspection Bungalow.

The block is well provided with educational institutions. There are two training-cum-production centres: one for wool weaving and the other for carpet weaving, functioning under the auspices of Block Development of the Industries Department. There is also one local charitable educational institution named Faizul Ghorba at Nasriganj which provides free board and lodging facilities to the poor Muslim students.

Nasriganj has got a large sheep population and blankets are made. At Nasriganj proper there is one *Kambal Ashram* which was primarily started as a wool weaver co-operative society but it is now in its doldrums. The industry is being now carried out on a household scale. The second cottage industry worth mentioning is medium quality *sabai* rope making. Besides these oil *ghani*, pounding of rice, etc., are being carried out in the block under the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

A big *mela* called *Sankranti mela* is held at Hariharganj, a part of Nasriganj town on the bank of the river Sone.

One interesting feature of this area specially of Nasriganj is that during the rainy season when the river Sone comes in spate, people have been found rushing, diving and floating in the river

GLOSSARY OF NON-ENGLISH WORDS IN THE TEXT.

1. *Abwab* .. A kind of toll, an illegal exaction.
2. *Amil or Sarkar* .. A District Officer in Mughal times.
3. *Amin* .. A person who does mapping and writing of records.
4. *Bal Panchayat* .. An operation to fix culturable and unculturable lands of *diara* villages and also to realise rent every year.
- 4 (A). *Bakast land* .. Land retained by the ex-landlords and tenure-holder being in their *khas* cultivation.
5. *Chakrana* .. A kind of service tenancy.
6. *Chitta* .. A plotwise record of culturable and unculturable area of a village.
7. *Chowdhary* .. A Pargana Officer in Mughal times.
8. *Chowrahi* .. Varieties of fixed kind of rent.
9. *Danabandi* .. Varieties of fixed kind of rent.
10. *Dan Patra* .. An unregistered deed of gift for donations of land to the Bhoodan Yagna Committee according to the Bhoodan Yagna Act.
11. *Diwan* .. Provincial head directly responsible to the Emperor and his treasury.
12. *Field Bujharat* .. A kind of quick survey by the revenue staff under the executive instructions of the Government.
13. *Gairmazarua land.* *Aam* Land belonging to the entire community of a village.
14. *Gair Mazarua Malik land.* Lands belonging to the landlord in a village. (Now the Bihar Government).

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|--|----|--|
| 15. <i>Gujashta</i> | .. | Holding at fixed rent. |
| 16. <i>Guzashtadar</i> | .. | } Tenants holding land on fixed rent not
liable to change. |
| <i>or</i>
<i>Sharaht moyyan</i>
<i>(raiyyats).</i> | .. | |
| 17. <i>Hinhayuti</i> | .. | Life-long. |
| 18. <i>Jagir</i> | .. | Property whose income was assigned to local officers for maintenance. |
| 19. <i>Jama</i> | .. | Rent paid by a raiyat. |
| 20. <i>Kanungo</i> | .. | A superior Officer of the <i>Patwaris</i> for the same purpose with a larger jurisdiction. |
| 21. <i>Khanapuri</i> | .. | Writing of record-of-rights. |
| 22. <i>Khasa</i> | .. | Revenue payable to ruler. |
| 23. <i>Khatian</i> | .. | Record-of-rights arranged according to classes of tenancies and holdings of individual raiyats. |
| 24. <i>Khatiawni</i> | .. | A tenant-wise and holding-wise record of culturable and unculturable area and proportions of rent for remission and realisation. |
| 25. <i>Kistwar</i> | .. | Mapping of individual fields and home-steads. |
| 26. <i>Malkana</i> | .. | A percentage of gross income of village payable to <i>maliks</i> of a village prior to farmers. |
| 27. <i>Makaddam</i> | .. | Village Level Worker in Mughal times. |
| 28. <i>Mankhat</i> | .. | Varieties of fixed kind of rent. |
| 29. <i>Manhunda</i> | .. | Varieties of fixed kind of rent. |
| 30. <i>Mouza</i> | .. | A village. |
| 31. <i>Mughalbandi</i> area | .. | Direct collection area. |

32. *Mukarri* .. A tenure interest under the B. T. Act.
33. *Naib* ... Assistant or deputy.
34. *Pargana* .. • A revenue paying unit of territory during Mughal period.
35. *Partial* .. Field checking.
36. *Patta* .. A lease for land executed by landlord in favour of tenants.
37. *Patwari* .. A revenue subordinate for keeping registers showing revenue accounts and incharge of rent collection.
38. *Praman Patra* .. • An unregistered deed of agricultural lease executed by the Bhoodan Yagna Committee in favour of *bhoodan* raiyats.
39. *Qabulliat* .. A counterpart of the *patja* executed by the raiyat in favour of landlord.
40. *Sadarjama* .. Fixed land revenue demand.
41. *Sajawal* .. Circle Officer.
42. *Sarhad Milan* .. Comparison of boundary of villages.
43. *Zarpeshgi Rehan* .. Usufructuary mortgage.